

SINGER
DONNA
DE LORY
TALKS
WITH WCT

PAGE 29



WINDY CITY TIMES

THE VOICE OF CHICAGO'S GAY, LESBIAN,
BI AND TRANS COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

MAY 11, 2011
VOL 26, NO. 32



www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



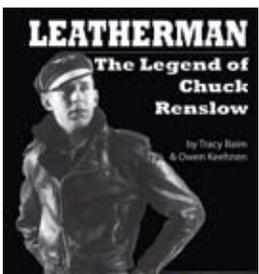
'PETER PAN'
REVIEW
PAGE 22



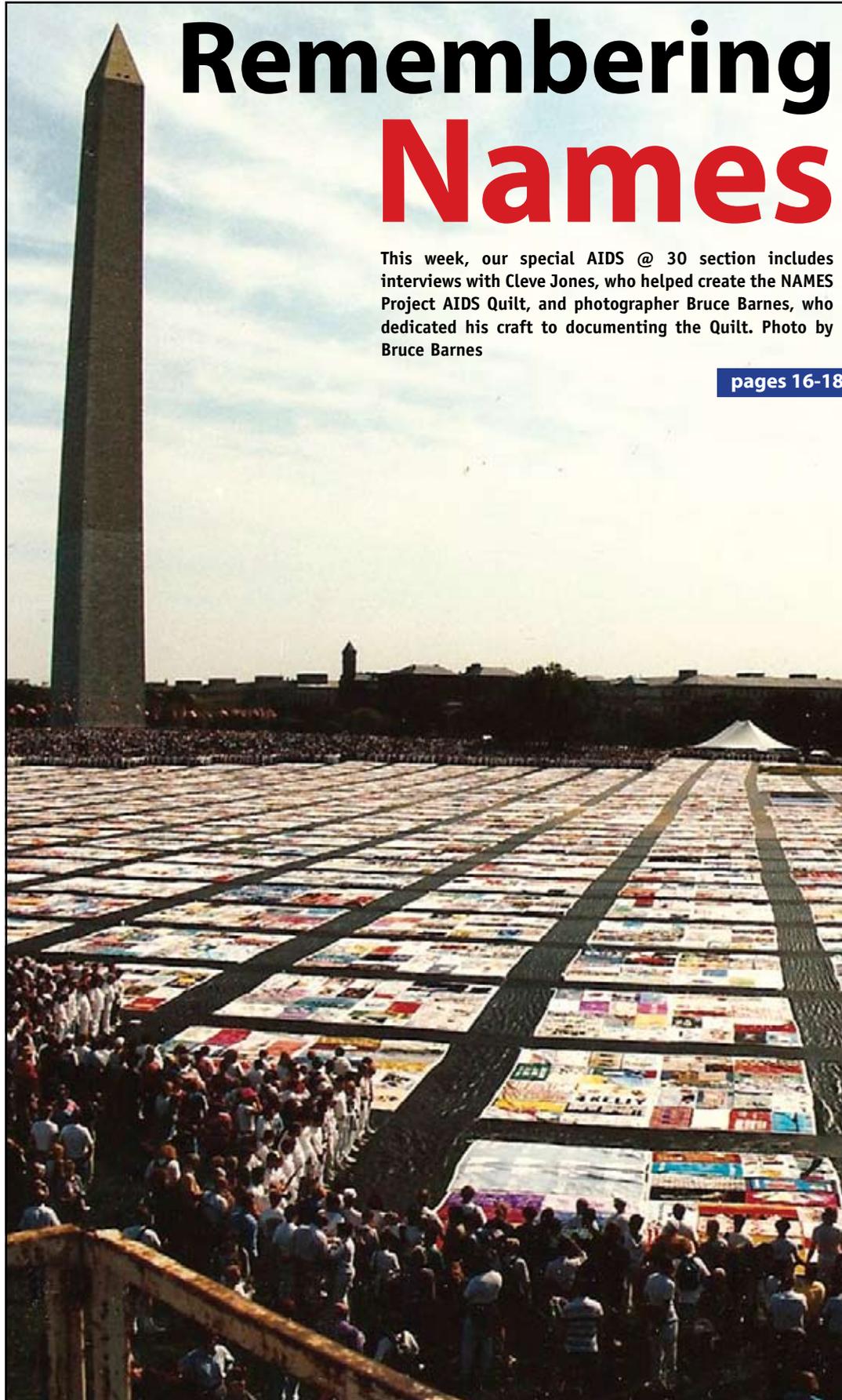
RAHM EMANUEL
ON AIDS, LGBT
HEALTH
PAGE 14



REAL ESTATE:
KENT BARTRAM
ON WRIGHT,
HOLLYWOOD
PAGE 28



'LEATHERMAN'
BOOK OUT
PAGE 27



Remembering Names

This week, our special AIDS @ 30 section includes interviews with Cleve Jones, who helped create the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt, and photographer Bruce Barnes, who dedicated his craft to documenting the Quilt. Photo by Bruce Barnes

pages 16-18



Oh, Matthew!

Glee's Matthew Morrison discusses his career in show business, including the gayest thing he's ever done. Photo by Brian Bowen Smith

pages 24-25

A vital "Lifeline"

pages 10-11



Chaz Bono speaking at Howard Brown's Lifeline Celebration, May 6 at the Palmer House Hilton. Bono also took part in a panel discussion before the event. Photos by Kat Fitzgerald, www.MysticImagesPhotography.com



ALAN CUMMING I BOUGHT A BLUE CAR TODAY

"a droll, naughty and seriously dish-y evening" *LA Times*

SATURDAY, MAY 28 AT 7:30 PM
TICKETS \$35 - \$65

The Tony Award-winning actor and star of CBS' *The Good Wife* performs his hit cabaret show belting out gems on a musical journey from Sinatra to Cyndi Lauper.

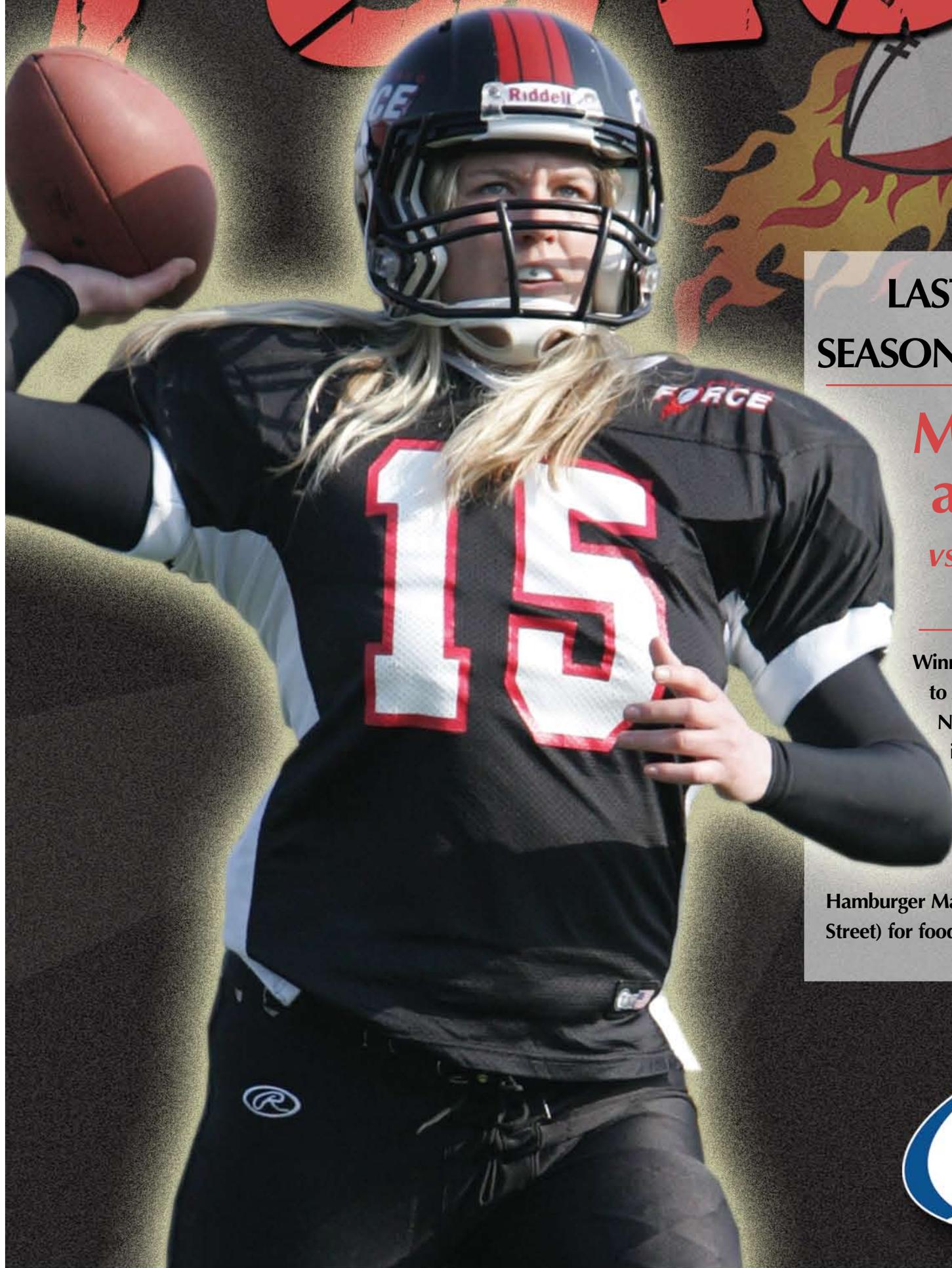
UBS
Season Sponsor

UNITED
Official Airline
of the Harris Theater

HARRIS THEATER
at
millennium
park

312.334.7777 | HarrisTheaterChicago.org

I AM A FORCE



**LAST REGULAR
SEASON HOME GAME!**

**May 14th
at 4pm**

*vs. West Michigan
Mayhem*

Winnemac Stadium is located next to Amundsen High School, 5105 N. Leavitt (south of Foster Ave.) in Chicago!

Join the team immediately following the game for the Miller Lite After-Party at Hamburger Mary's Attic (5400 N. Clark Street) for food and drink specials!

PHOTO © SCOTT RENSHAW 2011



www.chicagoforcefootball.com

this week in WINDY CITY TIMES

NEWS

Marriage fight in R.I.; reprieve	4
Judge Walker under scrutiny	5
Catholic Charities controversy	6
'Boystown' producer responds	7
Redistricting; big civil-union event	8
Chick-fil-A protest	9
Trans health panel	10
Lifeline gala	11
Gay man's post-accident comeback	12
Gay in the Life: Aaron Kubey	13
Views: Lipkin, Monroe	20

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Scottish Play Scott	21
Theater reviews	22
Matthew Morrison interview	24
Knight: Bridesmaids	26
'Leatherman' book out	27
Real estate: Kent Bartram	28
Music: Donna De Lory interview	29
Music: ALT Q's Nicole Reynolds	30
Celebrations: Steppenwolf gala	35
Billy Masters	37

OUTLINES

Real estate; classifieds	34
Calendar Q	36
Sports: Frank Kisner, Force win	38

Photos on cover (left, from top): Donna De Lory PR photo; Peter Pan poster; Rahm Emanuel image from team; Kent Bartram photo by Tully Satre; Leatherman cover by Kirk Williamson



DOWNLOAD THIS!

Go to www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com to download complete issues of Windy City Times and Nightspots. Then click on any ad and be taken directly to the advertiser's Web site!

online exclusives at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



THE WHITE STUFF

WCT caught Betty White recently when she signed copies of new book.

Photo by Jerry Nunn



Read what National Gay and Lesbian Task Force head Kate Kendall (left) said about queer families at NU.

Photo by Erica Demarest



Read a profile of Showplace ICON, an upscale movie-theater experience that has hosted Reeling.

PR photo

URBAN RENEWAL

See photos from the recent Urban Gateways Gala.

CAUGHT IN THE WEB

Find out about the recent 50 Faggots webisode premiere that took place at Center on Halsted.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

This week's entertainment round-up includes items on LL Cool J, Lisa Cholodenko and Glee.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

BAD TO THE COHN



The movie Violet Tendencies (with former Facts of Life star Mindy Cohn, second from left) is among Five Worth Finding.

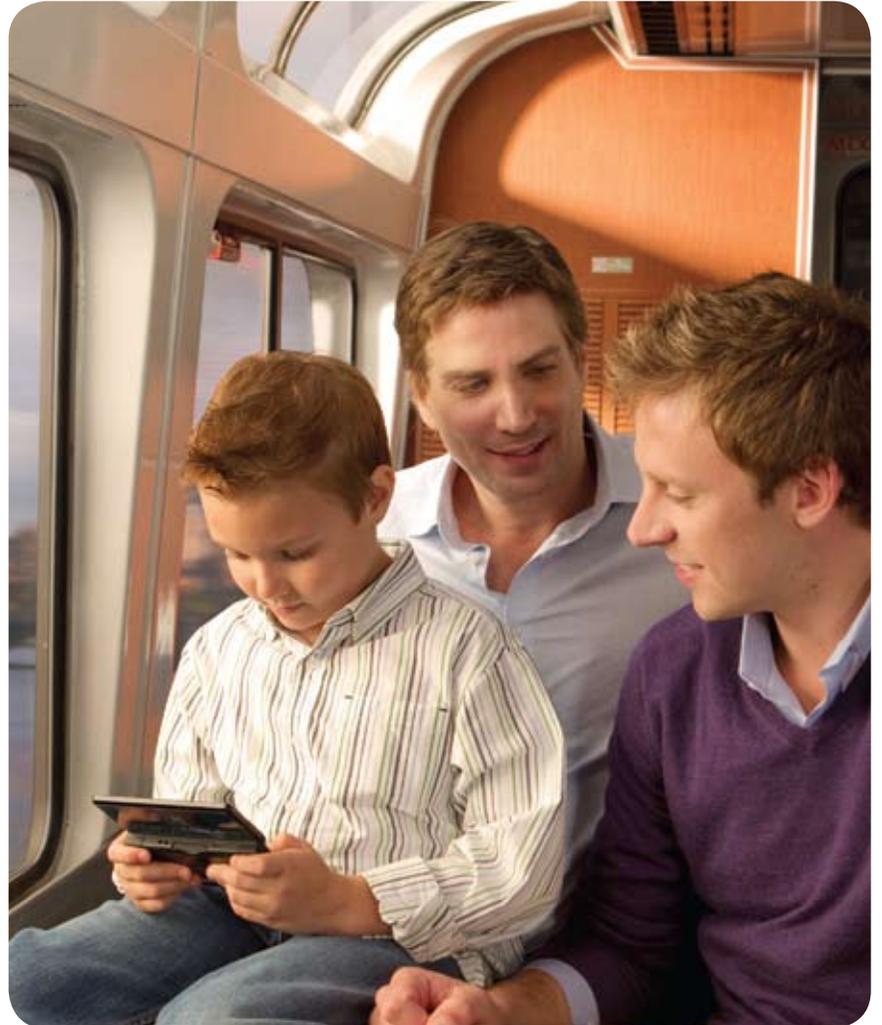
Hell In a Handbag's Trogg! A Musical

Find Nightspots on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com)

Shane Talbott of Talbott Teas

www.WindyCityQueercast.com Show #415

ENJOY CONNECTING WITH FAMILY EN ROUTE TO BOSTON



With service to over 500 destinations nationwide, our welcoming onboard environment is just as important as our beautiful views, great food and extra leg room. Whether enjoying a three-course meal in the Dining car, playing cards with friends in the Lounge or just relaxing in our spacious seats, Amtrak® invites you to embrace the moment.

Visit AmtrakRideWithPride.com



Amtrak, Acela, Acela Express, Enjoy the journey, and Amtrak Guest Rewards are registered service marks of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.

Marriage-equality fight shifts to R.I.

BY DANA RUDOLPH
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The openly gay sponsor of a marriage-equality bill in Rhode Island said last week he would push for civil-unions bill instead, setting off a slew of criticism from LGBT groups. Six states are considering legislation that would ask voters to amend the state constitution to ban recognition of any legal relationships for same-sex couples. All this was on the heels of a dramatic loss for a marriage equality bill in Maryland in March.

Has the state legislative fight for marriage equality lost momentum?

Not according to Evan Wolfson, executive director of the national Freedom to Marry group.

"Both Rhode Island and Maryland are very much still in play," said Wolfson. "...The fact that we don't win it exactly on the day we want ... doesn't change the overall momentum that is strongly in our direction."

The "highest priority" right now, says Wolfson, is New York. Wolfson said he is "very hopeful" a marriage bill that is expected to pass the New York State Assembly, which is under Democratic control, will also pass the Senate, where Republicans hold a 32-to-26 majority.

Wolfson acknowledges the Senate may be more difficult. While a marriage equality bill passed the Assembly three times in the past four years, an attempt to pass it in the Senate in 2009 failed by 14 votes.

New York Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos (R), who opposes marriage equality, has nevertheless said he would let a marriage equality bill come to the floor.

Also, several recent polls show that a majority of voters in the state support marriage equality. An April 11 Siena College poll showed that 58 percent of New Yorkers support it, with 36 percent opposed. An April 14 Quinnipiac poll showed 56 percent support, with 38 percent opposed, and a New York Times estimated projection on the same date also showed 58 percent support.

Additionally, two dozen New York business leaders, including Lloyd C. Blankfein, CEO of Goldman Sachs, and John Mack, chairman of the board of Morgan Stanley, issued an open letter April 28 arguing that legalizing marriage for same-sex couples would help the state attract talent and remain competitive.

"Winning New York would really be transformative," said Wolfson, "because New York has enormous cultural and political leadership in the United States and in the world."

Freedom to Marry and several other LGBT advocacy groups—the Empire State Pride Agenda, the Human Rights Campaign, the League of Women Voters, the Log Cabin Republicans, and Marriage Equality New York—have formed the New Yorkers United for Marriage coalition, which is coordinating efforts to lobby for the marriage equality bill this session, which adjourns in June.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D), who has expressed strong support for passing such a bill this year, has asked members of his staff to work with the coalition.

In Rhode Island, openly gay House Speaker Gordon Fox (D), a sponsor of that state's marriage bill, said in a statement April 27 that "there is no realistic chance for passage of the bill in the Senate," and that he will not move forward with a vote in the House.

However, the Providence Journal newspaper also reported that Fox said he did not have the votes to pass the bill even in the House, where Democrats hold 65 seats to the Republicans' 10.



Evan Wolfson. Photo by David Shankbone

Fox said he will instead sponsor a bill for civil unions and is "optimistic" that such a bill could pass both chambers this session. He was expected to introduce the bill May 3.

However, Fox's decision has not gone over well with LGBT groups. Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI), which supports full marriage, is holding a rally at the State House the same day to protest Fox's decision to drop the marriage equality bill. Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, and others, issued statements criticizing Fox's decision and calling it "completely unacceptable."

"Nothing short of marriage is equality for Rhode Island's gay and lesbian citizens and their children," said Karen Loewy, a GLAD senior staff attorney. "More to the point, civil unions tell gay people and their kids that they are second class citizens and that their families matter less than other families."

Wolfson called Fox's decision a "miscalculation." He noted that polls show a majority of support among voters, that Rhode Island already recognizes marriages of same-sex couples performed elsewhere, and that nearby Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Vermont all began with civil unions and have moved to full equality.

Similar to Rhode Island, marriage equality supporters never had a clear majority in Maryland either, even with the support of Governor Martin O'Malley (D). Although the bill passed the Senate in Maryland, but on March 11, the House unanimously to send the bill back to committee.

However, several LGBT groups, including Equality Maryland, the leading state organization behind the bill, expressed approval for the move.

Wolfson noted, however, that Maryland was "within a couple of votes" of passage. With "a little more time to make the case and organize," he thinks achieving equality could happen in early 2012.

Meanwhile, three states have enacted civil union laws this year—Delaware, Hawaii, and Illinois. Wolfson said that, while civil unions are not the true goal, they may still "sometimes can be a stepping stone."

Camilla Taylor, marriage project director for Lambda Legal, agreed, saying that civil unions "are an important step forward" in states where same-sex couples have no benefits or protections. She added that Lambda is "often very

involved," as it was in Illinois, in drafting such legislation.

Lambda also brought a suit before the New Jersey state Supreme Court claiming the state's civil union law did not provide full equality. The Court last June refused to hear the case, saying it must first go through the trial court process.

Taylor said she could not say whether Lambda would be filing any further cases to contest civil unions, noting that it is important in each state to first "develop a record of the ways in which it harms people to deny them equal access to marriage."

Six states (Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Washington) also have active legislation that would ask voters to amend the state constitutions to ban marriage—and in some cases, recognition of any legal relationships, such as civil unions—for same-sex couples.

New Mexico and Wyoming both considered but did not pass such bills this year. Wyoming also rejected a bill that sought to prevent the state from recognizing marriages and civil unions of same-sex couples from other jurisdictions.

Washington State has seen a mish-mash of marriage-related bills. The state already allows same-sex couples to register as domestic partners and, on February 14, bills were introduced in both chambers of the legislature for marriage equality.

Also, on April 5, Washington state Gov. Chris Gregoire (D) signed a bill to recognize legal relationships of same-sex couples from other jurisdictions as domestic partnerships. But there is also a bill in the House that would ask voters to ban marriage for same-sex couples under the

ONLINE AT
WINDYCITYMEDIAGROUP.COM
NATIONAL NEWS



—Anti-gay Olympic chief resigns

—Gay Repub. Calif. mayor Mike Gin (left) runs for Congress

—Playwright Doric Wilson dies at 72

state constitution. Democrats have a majority in both chambers.

The situation in New Hampshire is also mixed. A House committee voted March 3 to table a bill that would repeal the state's existing marriage equality law, thus postponing further consideration until January 2012. But opponents of marriage equality have said they will also introduce a bill next year seeking to ask voters in November 2012 to approve amending the state constitution to ban marriage for same-sex couples.

©2011 by Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

Gay binational couple gets deportation reprieve

On May 6, an immigration judge in Newark, N.J., issued a ruling on the deportation of Henry Velandia, a Venezuelan citizen legally married in 2010 to Josh Vandiver, an American citizen, according to a press release from Marriage Equality USA and GetEQUAL.

Immigration judge Alberto Riefkohl ordered that deportation proceedings against Henry Velandia be put on hold, granting an adjournment until December, thereby temporarily stopping the process of his deportation to his native Venezuela. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Assistant Chief Counsel David Cheng, the attorney prosecuting the case on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security, agreed to the adjournment.

The judge adjourned deportation proceedings against Velandia on the grounds that

the marriage-based green-card petition filed by Joshua Vandiver was still pending and because of the potential implications of a move by Attorney General Eric Holder in a related case that may signal a shift in the Administration's interpretation of the law as it concerns same-sex binational couples.

On May 5, Holder intervened in the case of another gay binational couple in New Jersey who had sought recognition of their civil union for immigration purposes. That couple lost their case on appeal at Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) and had filed a lawsuit in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. The attorney general "vacated," or set aside, the decision by the BIA and directed the BIA to issue a new opinion focusing on the whether a same-sex partner could qualify as a spouse under the Immigration and Nationality Act. This is the first time an attorney general has used the power of BIA's review to intervene on behalf of a same-sex couple. The specific instructions given to the BIA suggest that the attorney general is considering whether the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional when applied against same-sex couples in the immigration context.

Despite legally marrying in Connecticut in August 2010, Vandiver (a Ph.D. student at Princeton University) is currently prohibited from sponsoring Velandia (a salsa dancer, instructor and founder of a Princeton-based dance studio) for a green card, unlike heterosexual married couples in the same situation. Because of DOMA, the federal government does not recognize same-sex marriages, even if those marriages were performed in states that do legally recognize those unions.

Lavi Soloway—the couple's lawyer as well as founder of StopTheDeportations.com and co-founder of Immigration Equality—said, "Today we have won an important victory by stopping the deportation of Henry Velandia. The immigration judge has demonstrated that it is appropriate to proceed with caution when a marriage-based green card petition is pending precisely because the law and policy impacting lesbian and gay binational couples is in a state of flux."



Eric Holder.

Drama in the court: Judge Walker under scrutiny

Second of two parts

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Former U.S. District Court Chief Judge Vaughn Walker recently told a small group of reporters that it would be a "very slippery slope" to say that a judge's "sexuality" should prevent him or her from handling a case such as the trial against Proposition 8. Many legal activists—gay and straight—agree. In fact, the lead attorney for the Yes on 8 coalition that is defending California's ban on same-sex couples marrying agrees.

"We are not suggesting that a gay or lesbian judge could not sit on this case," said Charles Cooper states, in his motion to vacate Judge Walker's ruling against Proposition 8. But in their April 25 motion seeking to vacate Walker's ruling, Cooper and his team argue that, "Given that Chief Judge Walker was in a committed, long-term, same-sex relationship throughout this case (and for many years before the case commenced), it is clear that his 'impartiality might reasonably [have been] questioned' from the outset."

The U.S. Code governing "Judiciary and Judicial Procedure" does not stipulate that a judge should recuse himself because of any specific personal characteristic that he or she has. It draws a case-specific line: The Code states that a judge should recuse himself "in any proceeding in which his impartiality might reasonably be questioned" or in any case where the judge "knows that he ... has a financial interest in the subject matter in controversy ... or any other interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the proceeding...."

It is the latter directive Yes on 8 focuses on because, in an April 6 interview with reporters, Walker acknowledged having been in a relationship with a man for the past 10 years.

"[I]f at any time while this case was pending before him, Chief Judge Walker and his partner determined that they desired, or might desire, to marry," wrote Cooper in his motion, "Chief



Judge
Vaughn
Walker.

Judge Walker plainly had an 'interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the proceeding.'

"Indeed, such a personal interest in his own marriage would place Chief Judge Walker in precisely the same shoes as the two couples who brought the case," said Cooper. "Such a clear and direct stake in the outcome would create a nonwaivable conflict, and recusal would have been mandatory."

Certainly, being able to marry provides couples benefits, including financial benefits. That has been a key argument from plaintiffs in this case and from legal groups fighting the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in other federal cases.

However, it is hard to imagine how Judge James Ware, whose job it will be to rule on the motion to vacate, can determine whether Walker and his partner "desired" or "might" have desired to marry during the course of the trial without asking Walker—either in court or through an affidavit. That will lend extra drama to the June 13 hearing on the motion to vacate because Ware has ordered Judge Walker to appear in court that day when Ware hears arguments on a separate motion, concerning videotapes of the trial.

Cooper argues, in his motion, that Walker should have "at a minimum" provided "full disclosure on the record" about his relationship "so that the parties could consider and decide

before the case proceeded further, whether to request his recusal." (Apparently, Cooper and his team were either unaware of what the San Francisco Chronicle called an "open secret" concerning Walker's being gay—or maybe they just did not put stock in rumors.)

However, the Code also states that "disqualification is not required if the [judge] divests himself or herself of the interest that provides the grounds for the disqualification."

In other words, Walker could presumably divest himself of any potential gain from his ruling if he simply declared that he has never intended to marry his same-sex partner and that he never intends to do so.

Cooper appears to address this aspect of the Code when he notes that Walker "had a duty to disclose not only the facts concerning his relationship, but also his marriage intentions...."

"Only if Chief Judge Walker had unequivocally disavowed any interest in marrying his partner could the parties and the public be confident that he did not have a direct personal interest in the outcome of the case," wrote Cooper. "... Because he did not do so when the case was assigned to him, and has not done so since, it must be presumed that he has an interest in marrying his partner and therefore was in fact the 'judge in his own case.'"

However, that is Cooper's presumption—that all people in long-term relationships want to get married. It is well known in the LGBT community that not all gay and lesbian couples want to get married. Census data shows the same to be true for many straight couples. Data released in 2008 showed the number of unmarried heterosexual couples living together numbered about 6 million—up from less than 1 million in 1977. Also, in a twist of irony, it was a 2006 study by a group that opposes same-sex marriage (the Institute for Marriage and Public Policy) that claimed only about 15 percent of same-sex couples who live in places where they can obtain a marriage license choose to do so.

Also, there's the reality that if Walker and his partner had wanted to get married, they had a six-month window of opportunity to do so in California—between May and November 2008, before voters passed Proposition 8.

Not surprisingly, then, Cooper attempts to persuade Judge Ware of Judge Walker's impartiality by characterizing certain of his acts during the trial as having been "marked by a number of irregular and unprecedented rulings, both procedural and substantive, that give gravely disquieting force to the 'appearance of partiality' created by the belated disclosure of Chief Judge Walker's long-term, committed relationship." Among those rulings, said Cooper, was

Walker's request that Yes on 8 disclose confidential, internal communications of the pro-Prop 8 groups; and his ruling that the trial proceedings be broadcast and web streamed. However, neither of those rulings could have a demonstrated impact on the case because both of those rulings were overturned by higher courts.

One thing that seems painfully clear from this latest round of side issues to the Prop 8 case is that, whatever Ware decides concerning the motion to vacate, that ruling, too, will almost certainly be decided by a higher court.

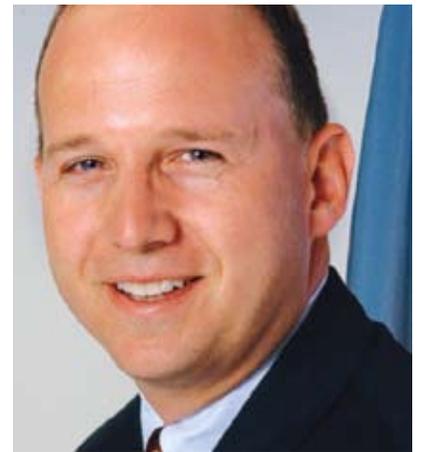
©2011 Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

Del. gov. to sign civil-unions bill

Delaware Gov. Jack Markell will sign Senate Bill 30—which will enable couples to enter into same-sex civil unions and enjoy the same rights, protections and obligations that exist for married spouses—Wed., May 11, according to a press release. Among those slated to be at the ceremony are Lisa Goodman, president of Equality Delaware and members of the state's general assembly.

In addition, there will be video greetings from U.S. Sen. Christopher Coons, Congressman John C. Carney and Wilmington Mayor James M. Baker.

Last month, House lawmakers voted 26-15 in favor of the measure. Rep. Melanie L. George, SB 30's lead sponsor in the House, noted that women and African-Americans fought for years to address inequalities in society, such as the right to vote and end segregation.



Gov. Jack Markell.

Joyce Ford
Ford

The Better Half of Car Buying



At the Corner of 24th & Michigan Avenue in Chicago's New South Loop
Call us: 312-842-4200 • Email us: joyceford1301@aol.com • Visit us online: joyceford.net



Welcome to Joyce Ford. At Chicago's only female owned Ford dealer, you'll discover a better buying experience and a better deal. It's where girl-power meets horsepower, so there's never any pressure... just pleasure.

I look forward to seeing you!

Maureen Joyce
Owner

Catholic Charities in standoff over adoption, care

BY CHUCK COLBERT

With a new civil-unions law soon taking effect, Catholic Charities says the organization might stop providing foster-care and adoption services if it is required to place children with same-sex couples.

"There's a real possibility that we will be forced out of foster care and adoption," Robert Gilligan, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Illinois, told reporters at a Statehouse news conference May 4, according to the Associated Press.

For some time the Catholic Conference—the official lobbying arm of the Catholic Church—has been pushing to amend a Senate bill, which would carve out an exemption to the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act,

specifically saying faith-based organizations need not provide adoption or foster-care services to prospective same-sex parents in a civil union.

However, an openly gay lawmaker who sponsored the civil-unions legislation said the Catholic Conference and Catholic Charities are merely looking for a way to discriminate against gay people.

"Here's the issue," state Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago, told Windy City Times. "They've wanted out [from under the law] for years because it is not the civil-unions law that governs [adoption and foster-care policy]."

"[Rather, the Illinois] Human Rights Act, which has been the law for years, says you cannot discriminate in the provisions of public accommodations to any protected class, including religion, marital status, and sexual orientation," he explained. "[The Catholic organizations] are trying to use this [civil-unions issue] as a lever to get themselves exempted out from under the equal-treatment provisions of the existing state statute that has nothing to do with civil unions."

The new law, which takes effect June 1, extends all equivocal spousal benefits available at the state level to registered same-sex partners.

If Catholic Charities refuses to offer adoption or foster-care services to gay couples, the organization may be open to lawsuits or be denied state funding.

Catholic Charities officials say that its faith, or church teaching, does not allow the organi-



Anthony Martinez. Photo courtesy of Martinez



State Rep. Greg Harris.

zation to place children in homes with same-sex couples.

"It's an issue of conscience," Gilligan said, according to the Associated Press.

"We simply cannot be the agency that processes an application for someone to be a foster parent if they are cohabitating in a civil union," said Tricia Fox, director of Catholic Charities of Peoria, quoted in the Springfield State Journal-Record.

For that reason the Catholic Conference wants to amend Senate Bill 1123 with language stating, "A child-welfare agency that is religiously based, owned, and operated by, or affiliated with a bona fide religious group may decline an adoption or foster-family application, including any related licensure and placement from a party to a civil union if acceptance of that application would constitute a violation of the organization's sincerely held religious beliefs."

The amendment also stipulates that if an agency declines an application, it must refer prospective parents to the Department of Children and Family Services for regional licensed child welfare agencies.

The Associated Press reported that leaders of the two Catholic organizations emphasize they are not trying to prevent same-sex couples from becoming adoptive or foster parents. Instead, they want gay couples to work with other agencies.

Sen. David Koehler, D-Peoria, sponsored the legislation. But last month the Senate Executive Committee voted against the measure seven to six, with one abstention, in effect killing the amendment.

The legislature, however, extended until May 4 the expiration date for SB 1123, which would have extended protections to public facilities and places for blind or visually and hearing impaired people.

Apparently, by holding press availability hours before the bill expired, the Catholic Conference and Catholic Charities hoped to persuade the Senate committee to reconvene and reconsider the amendment, which is unrelated to SB 1123's original content.

"It's not going anywhere at this point," Koe-

hler told the Journal-Record, referring to the measure. "I don't think it's going to move."

Still, gay-rights leaders object to the use of public funds to discriminate against gay people.

"If [Catholic Charities] do[es] not want to let gay couples adopt or be foster parents, fine. Let them do it on their own dime and not on millions of dollars of Illinois taxpayers," said Rick Garcia, a practicing Catholic and longtime gay-rights activist.

Equality Illinois, the state's largest gay-rights group, has been saying that children's interests should come first.

"Catholic Charities is asking the state to create for itself an exemption, allowing Catholic Charities to take public funds to provide a public service on behalf of the state, but then to discriminate against a class of state citizens," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois.

"This is especially heinous," he continued, "because they are playing with the welfare of children in the system. Instead of continuing to apply the best-interests-of-the-child standard in adoption and foster placements, Catholic Charities would use its own approach, rejecting otherwise qualified parents only because of their status as a same-sex couple in a civil union."

Cherkasov added, "They should not be allowed to receive public funds to protect welfare of the children, and at the same time to wholly disregard the best-interests-of-the-child standards."

Anthony Martinez, executive director of The Civil Rights Agenda, a statewide advocacy group, said, "It is completely unthinkable that the Catholic Charities would deny a home to a child simply because the couple is same-sex."

A Catholic majority seems to agree. Recent polling found that 60 per cent of American Catholics nationwide say same-sex couples should not be limited in their ability to adopt or foster children, according to the Public Religion Research Institute.

"How loud and unwavering do the voices of the faithful — and children who are seeking a stable and loving home — need to be before the Catholic Church truly listens and is drawn to be faithful to its mission of care and support?" said Chris Pett, Chicago chapter president of Dignity, an LGBT Catholic group.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that Catholic Charities has more than 3,000 children in their foster and adoption services, representing 20 percent of all Illinois adoption and foster-care services, and that the state pays Catholic Charities \$30 million annually for its services.

Currently, there are nearly 20,000 children in Illinois in process for foster care or adoption, according to the most recent figures from the US Department of Health & Human Services.

If Catholic Charities in Illinois decides to close its adoption and foster-care programs, it will not be the first Catholic social service agency in the nation to do so. Catholic Charities in the Boston and the Washington, D.C., archdioceses ended their programs rather than comply with state and city non-discrimination laws. In both locations, however, other public agencies took over, providing adoption services and foster-care placements.

Final Weeks

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS

After a quarter of a century in Evanston

TOTAL RUG LIQUIDATION



77%
Off original price

Entire Store Now
Selling out to the bare walls

TABRIZ - KASHAN - PERSHWAR - OUSHAK
HERIZ - KAZAK - SAROUK & MANY MORE!

Coupon

Present this coupon
for an additional
5% OFF

Rouzati Oriental Rugs

1901 Central St., Evanston

847-328-0000

Hours: 10-6 Mon. to Sat., 12-5 Sun

Chicago Teachers Union to debut in Pride Parade

The Chicago Teachers Union's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Rights Committee announced that "We Teach Pride Around the World" will be the theme of the union's debut entry in Chicago's annual Pride Parade on Sunday, June 26, according to a press release.

"Our GLBT Rights Committee is proud to lead the first-ever Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) float in our city's annual celebration event," said Dennis Bales, chairperson of CTU's GLBT Rights Committee. He added, "We are even more proud of the fact that our union officers,

leaders, scores of teachers and other school staffers will be marching with us. We invite GLBT teachers and our allies from the entire Chicagoland area to march with us."

CTU President Karen Lewis said that the June 26 parade will be an historic event recognizing Chicago's GLBT public school personnel: "When I took office last year I was shocked to discover that our union didn't have an official float in Chicago's parade. It was one of the first problems I was determined to rectify."

A pre-parade party will be held make signs and mix and mingle before Pride Sunday. The location, date and time of the party will be announced at a later date.

'Boystown' producer: 'The show will go on'

BY JOSEPH ERBENTRAUT

Shortly on the heels of the news of two East Lake View nightspots withdrawing from his proposed Jersey Shore-esque, LGBT-centric reality television show due at least in part to their new knowledge of his criminal record, Boystown producer and Chitown Entertainment, LLC, CEO David Schlessinger released a statement May 5 indicating that the show will proceed.

According to Schlessinger, three bars—Circuit, Spin and Hydrate—are “very supportive and remain eager to be part of the reality show production.” Conversations with prospective cast members, he claimed, have remained ongoing, adding that none have backed out from the project and plans for additional location shoots are in the works. Essentially, he added, “the future of the show is in no jeopardy whatsoever.”

As Windy City Times reported last week, Schlessinger pled guilty to and was convicted of three separate sexual-assault charges—one



Dave Schlessinger.

predatory, two aggravated—concerning the assaults of three underage boys between June 1995 and January 1997. According to court records, Schlessinger met the boys while cruising through Chicago's Uptown neighborhood. He was sentenced to three years prison time in each case—sentences he served concurrently—and remains listed on the state's sex offender registry.

During the weekend of April 15, following a few weeks of scouting, Schlessinger and Los Angeles-based casting directors hosted casting calls for his proposed reality series at two Halsted Street bars, Scarlet and Minibar. Management from both establishments have since backed out of the project.

Sean Kotwa, manager of Hydrate, one of the three bars Schlessinger described as “eager to be part” of his show, confirmed to Windy City Times late last week that his bar “can no longer support” the series. Management of the other two bars—Circuit and Spin—did not respond to the paper's request for comment at press time, although Circuit owner Mike Macharello told the RedEye he has “chosen to just give the guy a chance and help him out” by working with him on the show.

Schlessinger, who did not comment on record for the original May 4 story, has hired publicist Glenn Selig, the Tampa, Fla.-based founder of the Publicity Agency. Selig, whose most well-known clients have included former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and former suburban Chicago police officer Drew Peterson, specializes in “crisis management public relations,” according to his company's website.

Selig described his client as “civic-minded and community-involved” in reference to Schlessinger's 2006 appointment by the National Republican Congressional Committee to the position of honorary chairman on the Business Advisory

Council for the state of Illinois and a letter the 45-year-old received from the office of Mayor Richard M. Daley in 2004. The letter thanked Schlessinger for “reporting [his] City service needs” to the office, which appeared to result in the installation of a new street light.

“This could be a positive story. Instead, the media has decided to make it a negative one,” Selig told Windy City Times, adding that the show would bring new jobs to the community as well as national exposure to “what locals already know to be a good neighborhood.” All of the show participants, he noted, are at least 21 years old.

“Dave deserves to be treated fairly,” he continued. “Regurgitating a headline story from 15 years ago and implying that it somehow applies today is just plain wrong. And I will do everything I can to protect Dave's reputation.”

In his May 6 statement, Schlessinger said he “[is] and always [has] been truly sorry for the mistakes that I made 15 years ago. I have taken responsibility for these actions and their consequences. If anything, I have used them as a learning experience to help me grow to become a better person.”

“The reporting at this time in my life, as if it were some revelation, only serves to publicly humiliate me,” he added.

One Boystown resident, a 21-year-old gay man who wished to remain anonymous for this story, sees it differently and said he would boycott “any bar or club that does choose to do business with [Schlessinger].” The resident, who identified himself as a survivor of sexual abuse as a child, said he did “not want a man like him to represent the Chicago gay community in any way” and felt others like him would likely have a similar reaction.

“My gay friends and I look forward to any other responsible people in the Boystown community to stand up against this mockery and self-degradation,” he added.

HBHC art benefit at South Side center May 12

The Artists of EastBank will host a Reclaim Art benefit Thursday, May 12, 6-10 p.m., at the Bridgeport Art Center, 1200 W. 35th, where 30 artists will showcase work crafted from reclaimed goods purchased at one of the Howard Brown Health Center's (HBHC's) three Brown Elephant resale shops.

Proceeds will benefit HBHC. The exhibit will be available for viewing by appointment at 773-247-3000 through the month of May. Email rosnerpr@earthlink.net for more info.

Springfield Pride seeks volunteers

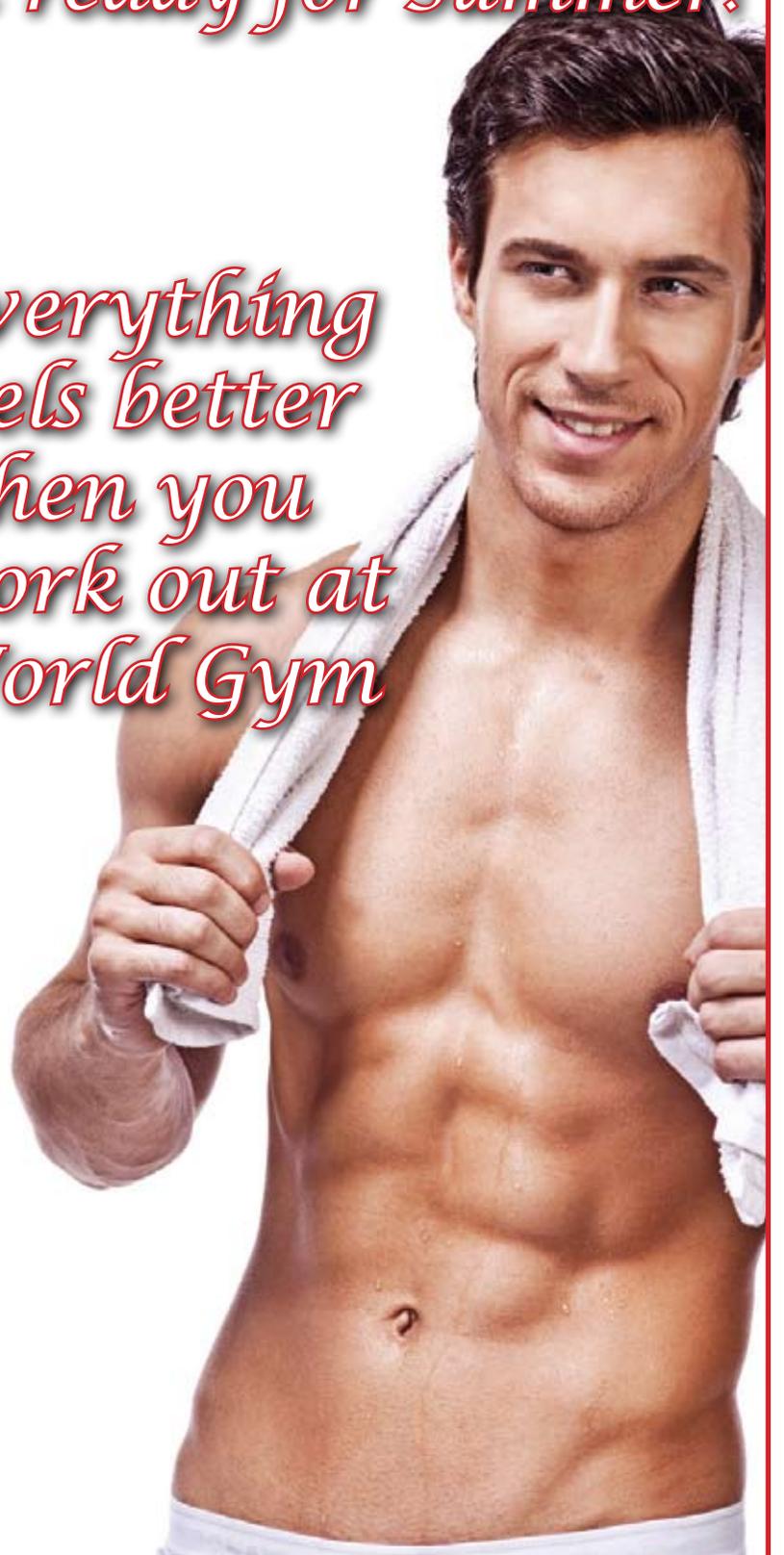
Springfield PRIDE and the Phoenix Center are seeking sponsors, vendors and volunteers for the city's first annual Gay Pride Festival on Harvey Milk Day, May 22.

The free festival will begin at noon with a Pooch Parade and will continue until 6 p.m. with a variety of entertainment, dancing, vendors, food and drink for all ages, including a children's area. Scandals Nightclub will host the Pre-PRIDE Party Saturday, May 21, and Club Station House will host the After-PRIDE Party at 6 p.m. May 22.

Contact the Phoenix Center at 217-528-5253 or visit <http://www.springfieldpride.org>.

Get ready for Summer!

Everything feels better when you work out at World Gym



Buy One Membership
Get a Friend's Membership



FREE



All Locations • Join Now! Offer ends soon!!

DOWNTOWN
312.357.9753

Monroe & Wacker

LAKEVIEW
773.348.1212

Montrose & Broadway

PILSEN
312.491.8700

18th & Bishop

PALATINE
847.991.9300

Dundee & Rt. 53

HIGHLAND, IN
219.838.3481

Ultra Plaza

AURORA
630.801.7733

300 N. Highland Ave.

RACINE, WI
262.598.9319

Elmwood Plaza

SIGN UP ONLINE:

WWW.CHICAGOWORLDDGYM.COM

Legislative redistricting and the LGBT community

BY ERICA DEMAREST

With changes in Chicago's state assembly districts likely to come, some activists are concerned boundary shifts following the 2010 U.S. Census may affect the future of Illinois' three openly gay legislators as well as same-sex marriage equality in the state.

Statewide legislative redistricting takes place every 10 years, following the U.S. Census. Chicago's population decreased by 7 percent—or about 200,000 residents—over the last decade, according to U.S. Census Bureau data, while the city's southern and western suburbs have grown considerably. That means when the state redraws its legislative districts in the coming months, the city of Chicago will likely hold fewer seats and its suburbs will gain representatives as districts shift.

"There've been dramatic population shifts," said Greg Harris, who represents Illinois' 13th district in the General Assembly. "There's been some discussion about whether population really declined or whether that was really just an undercount. Be that as it may—without a doubt—boundaries of districts are going to shift."

Some of these shifts will likely occur in Chicago's lakefront districts, which are home to Illinois' three openly gay legislators—Harris, Deb Mell (40th) and Kelly Cassidy (14th). In Harris' and Cassidy's districts, for example, population has decreased by as much as 13 percent in some areas due to gentrification. The district boundaries will need to push westward and in Cassidy's case northward to remain equitable with other districts in the state.

Some believe such a shift could create a re-election challenge for the incumbent Democrats, but longtime LGBT activist Rick Garcia does not think the legislators will have a problem. "Maybe I'm too optimistic," he said, "but I think Deb, Greg and Kelly are going to be pretty safe. I don't think the powers-that-be in Springfield want to lose three Democratic seats that are pretty solid."

Maps are still being drawn in the Illinois House, and preliminary versions are expected to be released later this month. A bipartisan House Redistricting Committee oversees the process, which must be completed by June 30 to avoid forming a special oversight commission.

Race is a key issue in determining how district lines will fall. Illinois law requires ethnic groups such as Asians, Latinos and African Americans to be placed together whenever possible, creating gerrymandered districts meant to address the needs of each ethnic community while consolidating political power. Detailed census data is used to determine where these communities live.

Since queer individuals were not measured in



State Rep. Deb Mell.

the 2010 census, and American Community Survey data suggests that LGBT citizens live in every county and district of the state, it is logistically impossible to create a predominantly LGBT district. "We can't use the data that's used by every other minority community," said Anthony Martinez, executive director of the Civil Rights Agenda (TCRA), a statewide advocacy group.

In the absence of an LGBT-specific district, TCRA has been working to ensure the queer community is visible during the redistricting process. The group attended three public hearings and distributed literature highlighting where same-sex couples live in Illinois. "We are everywhere," Martinez said. "We're in every major urban center. We're in every county in the state."

The goal, Martinez said, is to educate the House Redistricting Committee and illustrate what a viable voting bloc the LGBT community can be. As marriage equality legislation is brought to the House floor in coming years, it will be essential that all legislators—not just those who identify as gay—understand its significance, several activists said.

"It's convenient to say 'Call Greg Harris or Deb Mell,'" Harris said. "But we've got to get people used to working with their local legislators so they understand in their neighborhood, their town, there are lesbian and gay families. There are voices that need to be heard."

Still, many stress the importance of being represented by openly gay legislators. "If people work with a lesbian or sit next to a lesbian or are around gay and lesbian, bisexual and transgender people every single day," Martinez said, "as a legislator, they're no longer able to say 'that community' or put us in a box that's over there somewhere... We need to maintain that and protect that. Those gains are hard won and hard fought."

Garcia cited Deb Mell's 2010 engagement an-

nouncement on the House floor as an example of the type of political progress that would only be possible through LGBT representatives. Mell told the House she had proposed to her partner Christin Baker, but was saddened that the couple would have to marry in Iowa. Republicans and Democrats alike stood with Mell and offered support.

"I do not think that if we didn't have a lesbian woman stand and tell her story that there

would've been the response that came," Garcia said.

While none of Illinois' three openly gay legislators sit on the redistricting committee, each votes on the final map before it can be enacted. "You don't have clarity until you see the map," said Kelly Cassidy, who represents the 14th district. "But I will be one of the people voting, and I'll work towards a map that includes the progressive voice."

Civil-union ceremony with 30 Illinois couples June 2

In celebration of the first day of civil-union ceremonies in Illinois, the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues will host 30 ceremonies at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 2, in Wrigley Square at Millennium Park, at Randolph and Michigan.

The 30 couples were chosen through Lambda Legal's Civil Union Tracker.

The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events—in partnership with the Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture, Lambda Legal, Equality Illinois and the Alliance of Illinois Judges—is sponsoring the event. Gov. Pat Quinn will attend, and Cook County Clerk David Orr; the Hon. Timothy C. Evans, chief judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County; and members of the Alliance of Illinois Judges will officiate the civil-union ceremonies.

"Civil unions are long overdue in Illinois. They provide important protections for couples and their families," said Commissioner Dana V. Starks. "We are proud to celebrate this achievement."

"This event highlights a small sample of the many families across Illinois that are pro-

vided protections, rights, and responsibilities under Illinois's new law," said Jim Bennett, regional director for the Midwest Regional Office of Lambda Legal. "Today, we congratulate the thirty couples and all those who wish to get a civil union, it's a great day for committed same-sex couples and their children."

"What a terrific way for the City of Chicago to ring in civil unions. Having dozens of couples celebrate their love and commitment literally surrounded by the entire city is such a powerful symbol for how far we have come as a society," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois.

The Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Unions Act, first introduced by state Rep. Greg Harris in March 2007, and in the Illinois Senate by state Sen. David Koehler, passed by a 61-vote majority in the House and a 32-vote majority in the Senate. Its passage made Illinois the sixth state to allow civil unions, and includes provisions for hospital visitation and healthcare decision making.

All 30 couples participating June 2 will obtain a civil-union license from the Cook County Clerk's office June 1, the first day they can obtain such licenses at any County Clerk's office. By law, couples must wait until the day after they obtain their license to have their civil-union ceremonies performed.

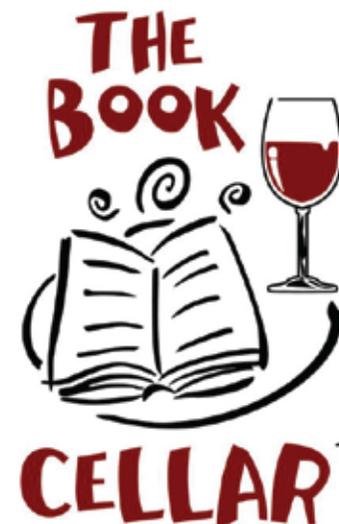
For more information, call 312-744-7911.



Jim Darby (left) and Patrick Bova, one of the couples slated to be united June 2. Photo courtesy of Erik Roldan

Your Neighborhood Indie Bookstore & Café

Magazines
eBooks
Greeting Cards
WiFi
Sandwiches
Wine



4736-38 N. Lincoln Ave.
773.293.2665
bookcellarinc.com

VALEO

AT CHICAGO LAKESHORE HOSPITAL

Chicago's Dedicated and Comprehensive LGBT Program

Valeo at Chicago Lakeshore Hospital provides comprehensive psychiatric and addiction-related treatment for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) individuals. The program offers a safe, affirming therapeutic environment for members of the LGBTQ community. The Valeo staff is comprised of well-trained, experienced gay and gay-sensitive behavioral health professionals from a wide variety of disciplines.

4840 N. MARINE DRIVE
CHICAGO, IL 60640
1-800-888-0560
www.chicagolakeshorehospital.com

Activists distribute 'coupons' at Chick-fil-A protest

BY YASMIN NAIR

Pro-LGBT activists stood at the location of the new Chick-fil-A restaurant, 30 E. Chicago, May 6 to distribute coupons for Chick-fil-A's newest sandwich, the "Bigot-fil-A," to passersby. The coupon reads that the fictional sandwich is "seasoned with homo/transphobia" and "comes topped with workplace inequality." It then lists the restaurant chain's contributions to a variety of anti-LGBT organizations.

As reported previously in Windy City Times, gay and lesbian activists, especially on college campuses, have been calling on the company to withdraw what they consider its support of anti-gay organizations like the National Organization for Marriage (NOM). They have also been critical of its exclusion of gay couples from the marriage retreat it sponsors via its Winshape Foundation.

Windy City Times spoke with Lindsey Dietzler, who is also a member of LGBT Change, before the protest. He said that the action is to be coordinated by the national LGBTQ organization GetEQUAL, with three other identical actions happening in Atlanta, Ohio and Fresno, Calif. The Atlanta action took place outside Chick-fil-A's Leadercast conference, a one-day leadership training conference, and the main pivot of this coordinated protest. Participants handed out fake coupons with the words, "Bigot-Fil-A" that list the anti-gay organizations supported by Chick-fil-A, along with the dollar amounts they receive from the chain.

Chick-fil-A outlets are run as individual franchises, and the current controversy began when

the website Good as You revealed that a Pennsylvania branch had sponsored an event titled, "The Art of Marriage: Getting to the Heart of God's Design," on Feb. 11. The event was run by the Pennsylvania Family Institute which has been identified as anti-gay (the Chick-fil-A

sponsorship eventually disappeared).

The Chicago franchise in the downtown area is the first in the city. Originally scheduled to open at the end of April, it will now do so in June. Asked about the effectiveness of an action before the actual store opened, Dietzler said that this is being done in order to coordinate with the other actions and that this will not be the only protest. He said that the ultimate goal was to "educate people on why they should not support Chick-fil-A if they are pro-LGBT." He also said that the activists want Chick-fil-A to withdraw its support from anti-gay organizations and issue an apology to the community.

WCT contacted Chick-fil-A, but representatives did not get back in time for this story.



Activists distributed "coupons" like the one above at a Chick-fil-A protest May 6. Coupon design by Joyce Rice

Out at CHM exhibit to premiere May 21

Opening May 21, the exhibition "Out in Chicago" will explore Chicago's LGBT communities against the backdrop of the forces that shaped Chicago's development. Out in Chicago—which runs through March 26, 2012—is the latest in the Chicago History Museum's ongoing series of exhibitions addressing Chicago's diverse communities and neighborhoods.

The exhibition is organized into four thematic sections reflecting major chronological and historical issues in Chicago's LGBT past. The first section looks at how Chicago attracted newcomers who resisted gender norms and found a place to live their lives differently. The second section documents how LGBT Chicagoans have made homes and formed different kinds of relationships and families, despite being subjected to harassment and discrimination.

The third section looks at the public life of LGBT communities and the city's neighborhoods, nightlife and bars. The last area focuses on how the LGBT community became a political force in Chicago.

Chicago History Museum's Jill Austin and Jennifer Brier, associate professor in gender and women's studies within the history department at the University of Illinois at Chicago, curated the exhibit. The exhibition's honorary chairs include actress Jane Lynch, columnist Dan Savage and chef Art Smith.

See <http://chicagohistory.org/planavisit/exhibitions/out-in-chicago> for more information.

Realize Your Dreams.

Tomorrow starts today.

Apply now for Summer and Fall Session!

www.csu.edu | 773.995.3552



We provide flexible scheduling options, affordable tuition, financial aid and accredited undergraduate and graduate degree programs leading to in-demand careers as recognized by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook Handbook, including:

- Accounting
- Computer Science
- Environmental Biology
- Finance
- Management
- Management Information Systems
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Pharmacy
- Public Health
- And more

CHICAGO
STATE
UNIVERSITY

Chicago State University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association.

Chaz Bono speaks at HBHC panel

BY YASMIN NAIR

Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) hosted a panel, "Opportunities for Holistic Trans Health: Inside and Outside the System," May 6 that addressed the healthcare needs of the trans community.

In keeping with the topic of holistic healthcare, the panel's speakers came from a range of fields and areas of expertise. The panel included Chaz Bono, who would also be the featured guest speaker at HBHC's Lifeline Fundraiser later that evening. (A documentary about his transition, *Becoming Chaz*, was to have its television premiere on the Oprah Winfrey Network May 10, with his memoir being published the same day.)

The other panelists were activists and healthcare professionals and advocates from the Chicago community. They included Lois Bates, trans health manager at HBHC; Linda Wesp, director of adolescent health at HBHC; Owen Daniel-McCarter, founding collective member of the Transformative Justice Law Project (TJLP); Logan Grimes, founding member of Gender Identity Foundation for Transgender Men (GIFT); Matty Rosado, lead facilitator at Broadway Youth Center (BYC); and C. Angel Torres, movement-building leader at the Young Women's Empowerment Project (YWEP) and Shira Hassan, co-director of YWEP.

HBHC CEO Jamal Edwards addressed the packed room, numbering approximately 40 individuals, with introductory remarks emphasizing the importance of the Center to the community. He said, "What we do at Howard Brown is unique because people [come to Howard Brown] when they need quality, culturally competent and com-

passionate healthcare." Calling HBHC "a place of refuge and a place of strength," he praised it for its "innovative" THInC (Trans Hormone Informed Consent) protocol, which allows clients seeking hormone therapy to access it by stating their own choices about their transitions. This differs from the standard procedure at most clinics, where transgender clients are required to demonstrate that they are suitable candidates for therapy.

BYC manager Lara Brooks moderated the panel. Her opening remarks set the tone for the discussion when she spoke of the need to "link healthcare to institutional violence" and praised what she described as a "dream team" of a panel as "activists bravely resisting institutional violence." Brooks began by asking what the problems might be with access to healthcare for the trans community, and asked Bono to respond first. He said "trans guys who don't know how to access proper treatment" and recommended that people "start with your local gay and lesbian center and do research."

Rosado spoke of the problems with not having more "open-minded medical providers" and the fact that hormone therapies tend to be expensive, as well as issues with people assuming they knew what pronouns to use and the lack of gender neutral bathrooms. Grimes expanded the point by adding that medical professionals were not sufficiently trained in working with the transgender community, and emphasized that the issues needed to be taken to the mainstream and larger institutions.

On a question of internalized transphobia, Bono spoke of his own experience, recounting that "For me, the internalized transphobia was



From left: Linda Wesp, Chaz Bono, Lois Bates and Lara Brooks at Howard Brown Health Center's transgender health conference. Photo by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com)

fear and shame" and that he had once thought that his life would be "absolutely ruined" if he transitioned.

A discussion about what good trans health would look like prompted responses from Wesp, who stressed the need for medical providers to, effectively, unlearn much of what they might have been taught in medical school. According to her, medical providers are "trained to make quick judgments" and diagnoses "and to put people in boxes," and that can mean often ignoring the needs, wishes, and gender self-identification of their trans clients. Bates spoke of the need for providers to remember that health issues did not operate in isolation and that other matters, like sexual issues or partner issues, were also key to a holistic health program.

Daniel-McCarter returned to the issue of institutional violence raised at the beginning when asked about one of TJLP's core values (each group was asked to discuss its own), gender self-determination. He pointed out that trans people are "scrutinized more for their gender expression" and further stigmatized when they are also poor, people of color and/or HIV-positive. This also means that they have limited access to healthcare and other basic needs while at the same time facing harassment, violence, police violence and high rates of incarceration. He also pointed to the mainstream community's tendency to see incarcerated trans people as a "taint on the movement."

YWEP's Hassan and Torres spoke about reproductive justice, a core value for the group, defining it as "the right to make decisions about your body and you at all times," and their emphasis on harm reduction, which means aiding their constituents in safer practices in whatever they were engaged in (such as sex trade or the use of street hormones), instead of lecturing them to stop.

Bates and Wesp also addressed the history of HBHC's relationship with the Chicago transgender community. Wesp expanded on the development of the THInC protocol while Bates spoke of how Howard Brown was "one of the first institutions that started thinking about providing healthcare to trans individuals, especially trans people of color," who have high rates of HIV.

Addressing the question of what the community and allies might do to take further steps with regard to healthcare for the trans community, Owen Daniel-McCarter said that one in three trans people can expect to be incarcerated and that allies and the community should think of alternatives to hate crimes legislation which, he said, does not work because "it individualizes problems with hate" and only succeeds in putting more people of color without resources in jail; according to him, most people jailed under hate-crimes legislation are Black males, for crimes against white men.

Asked what the panelists might dream about in terms of healthcare for the community, Wesp said, simply, "healthcare for everybody," and Torres spoke of the need for transformative justice rather than "subscribing to a system that's broken." Grimes said he wanted to see gender identity disorder removed from the DSM-IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders), pointing out that "it creates a lot of barriers for our community by creating a negative stigma."

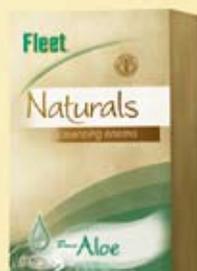
He added, "We don't have a mental disorder. What we have is a problem dealing with the systems because the systems don't have a way to deal with us. We navigate and we deal with that stress day to day." Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); many more at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>



KEEP IT CLEAN. NATURALLY.

INTRODUCING FLEET® NATURALS CLEANSING ENEMAS. Gentle enough for daily use, now you can feel clean and fresh—without the drugs found in laxative enemas.

Drug Free | Safe For Daily Use | Hygienic



New AIDS campaign 'Changes the Story'

To mark the 30th anniversary of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) has launched a new public-awareness campaign to refocus attention on the disease. The Chicago-based design agency Substance (<http://www.isubstance.com>) developed the ad campaign called "Change the Story."

"Too many people mistakenly believe that HIV has gone away, that it no longer touches close to home," said AFC president/CEO David Ernesto Munar. "But the truth is that every nine and a half minutes someone in America is infected with HIV. That's a story we have to change."

The ads look like a daily newspaper, mimicking the format of the sports, arts and business sections. But instead of baseball scores, theater reviews or market reports, the headlines feature news about HIV/AIDS in Chicago fol-

lowed by the call to action, "Become a force for change."

To view all three versions of the ads, visit <http://www.aidschicago.org/changethestory>.

HIV+ people needed for vaccine study

Rush University Medical Center is seeking HIV-positive individuals for a study to learn if the zoster vaccine (for shingles) is safe, effective and tolerable.

Subjects must have an undetectable viral load; be on two to three HIV meds from different classes; be at least 18 years old; and must have CD4 between 200 and 349. Subjects must not have ever had varicella/zoster vaccines or varicella/zoster in the past year.

See https://actgnetwork.org/trials_open_enrollment or email Craig.Johnson@rush.edu.

Howard Brown holds 'Lifeline Celebration'

BY YASMIN NAIR

Howard Brown Health Center (HBHC) held its "Lifeline Celebration" fundraiser May 6 at the Palmer House Hilton's Red Lacquer Room, attended by about 250 people. The event, billed as a "No Black Tie Allowed" event, was designed to spotlight the organization's fundraising efforts, begun in November 2010. At that time, HBHC asked for \$500,000 in 50 days, saying it needed that amount in order to keep its doors open.

The event was a two-tiered one, with a VIP champagne reception and mixer with special guest Chaz Bono, followed by a main event (where Bono was also present). At both, HBHC CEO Jamal Edwards spoke to attendees, giving his updates on funding and accomplishments. He began by noting that HBHC had "been through a lot" over the last many months, and spoke of the center's ongoing significance within the LGBTQ community as a place where they could get "compassionate, culturally competent care," adding that "no one cares for the LGBTQ community like Howard does. No one has and no one ever will."

With regard to fundraising so far, Edwards said that HBHC had raised \$800,000 as of that day, with a goal of \$1 million by the end of the fiscal year. He said that "Howard Brown must exist to serve ... all the people who historically have nowhere else to go. We are the LGBTQA community's lifeline."

Bono's address at the main event was heralded by a clip from the documentary *Becoming Chaz*, slated to premiere on the Oprah Winfrey Network May 10. Bono spoke of his visit to HBHC earlier in the day, when he had also participated in a panel discussion about trans healthcare needs, and praised it for its THInC protocol, an informed consent model for accessing hormones. Noting that there were not many trans people in the room, he said, "For anybody who is not trans: It's a really difficult thing to be in our society. We are 30-40 years behind the gay

community." Bono, the only child of legendary entertainers Sonny and Cher, has lived out his transition in the public eye and addressed that aspect of his personal history, saying that for years, "I mistakenly thought I was a lesbian attracted to women, but I always had a nagging feeling that I didn't fit, that somehow I was a bad lesbian."

According to Bono, his relative access to resources did not make the transition process any easier, saying that it was "very difficult to get the right medical care" and that it took two or three times before he finally found doctors with the cultural competency to work with him. For that reason, he said, "what Howard Brown is doing for this part of the community is amazing. It's a gift and you should be proud that this is part of the city."

Edwards, before making a final fundraising appeal, also made a point of thanking a list of "key" HBHC staff, including Christina Santiago, Lesbian Community Care Project manager of programming; Lara Brooks, Broadway Youth Center manager; Joe Hollondoner, vice president and chief program officer; and transgender health advocate Lois Bates, among others. Asking the audience for funds, he pointed out that the pre-event tickets this year were only \$100 (\$125 at the door; VIP reception tickets were \$250), whereas last year's event had been \$300. Some members of the community had objected to what they considered a high price of admission to an event billed as "for the community, by the community."

Attendees appeared to be happy with the event and Edwards' reports. Jasmine (she would not give her last name) and Bethany Johnson, both of the Chicago Outfit Roller Derby League and sporting their team jackets, said they were there as invitees; they had chosen HBHC as their charity of the season. They said they were "glad HBHC got over the hump because it's vital to the city's GLBT community." Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (MysticImagesPhotography.com); many more at <http://www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com>



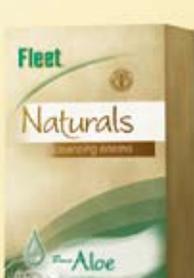
© 2010 C.B. Fleet Company, Inc.



KEEP THEM CLEAN. NATURALLY.

INTRODUCING FLEET® NATURALS CLEANSING ENEMAS. Gentle enough for daily use, now you can feel clean and fresh—without the drugs found in laxative enemas.

Drug Free | Safe For Daily Use | Hygienic



Gay man on comeback trail after accident

BY ROSS FORMAN

Partners Keith Ellis and Todd Gagliano had been out with friends on a November night that dramatically changed their lives. Ellis was tired, so he went back to their Edgewater home. Gagliano stayed out with friends—and never made it home that night.

Gagliano was walking home when a car hit him at the intersection of Clark and Ridge.

Ellis learned about Gagliano's injury at about 6:30 a.m., on Nov. 22, 2010, getting the nightmare phone call that has drastically changed their lives—and impacted hundreds across the country, especially within Chicago's LGBT community.

The accident occurred near a fire station, and they responded and were on the scene immediately. Gagliano never lost oxygen to his brain and was breathing on his own, but now has admitted, "I don't remember being hit by a car. I don't even remember where we were [that night.]"

Gagliano was immediately taken to the intensive care unit at St. Francis Hospital. He suffered a skull fracture and lacerations to the left side of his brain. He had brain swelling, a bruised lung and bruises on his legs.

Doctors first told Ellis that Gagliano's bloody condition "is as bad as it can be without dying."

"You never think it's going to be you, or someone you know and love," Ellis said in late April, fighting back tears. "I knew something was

wrong when I answered the phone because Todd wasn't home."

Gagliano's condition was touch-and-go for days. Doctors knew he was in danger of rapid brain swelling for the first five days, and they told Ellis that if Gagliano ever woke up, it probably wouldn't be until Easter, and they had no idea what he'd be like then.

Gagliano was in ICU until Dec. 7, and in a coma for two months. Ellis was by his side the whole time. Gagliano was transferred to Holy Family Hospital in Des Plaines in early December 2010 to wean him off the ventilator that he was on; he remained there until Jan. 20, 2011. Then he was transferred to the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago's (RIC's) downtown Chicago location, where he was officially declared out of the coma.

On Feb. 26, Gagliano was discharged. He was finally going home.

"It's just a miracle, especially so soon after the accident," Ellis said. "The first day [in the hospital last November], they told us that they weren't sure at all if he was going to make it; it was a very bleak outlook.

"Now he's home.

"Sure, it still will be several years before things get back to normal, if they ever do."

However, the tears they've endured for months have transformed into smiles more often, especially as Gagliano continues to make improvements. Even his humor is coming back, which he often adds unexpectedly to conversations.

"I'm continuing to recover and I think my

physical state is much better than it used to be," Gagliano says almost matter of factly.

He is still working on his cognition, problem-solving skills, reasoning, deduction and memory—particularly the short-term memory that was injured. "It's very clear that there are gaps in my memory," Gagliano said.

However, he has almost always been able to recognize people since waking up from the coma. However, there was a time that he didn't recognize Ellis. Gagliano would also call the cats by the names of cats he had when he was young.

Gagliano's mobility is now limited; he needs a cane for the limited walking he can do. Also, the motor skills from the left side of his body need to be improved. Plus, he often still suffers double vision.

"The amount of support that we've gotten, since day one, has been so overwhelming," Ellis said. "The first day, within an hour of me calling just a couple friends [to inform them,] the waiting room was packed. There were at least 20 people there.

"I basically have gotten to fall in love with Todd all over again because I've got to meet all of his high school friends, all of his college friends, and so many others. The outpouring of support has been insanely humbling.



Keith Ellis (left) and Todd Gagliano. Photo by Ross Forman

"You think you know your partner, but when something like this happens and you learn about your partner from others, it's been something that I never would trade. I think I gained an entirely new family through this process."

Gagliano now goes to seven hours of physical rehabilitation three days a week at the RIC in Ravenswood. He's improving daily, though slowly—he still needs someone with him 24 hours a day. His next goal is to walk 204 feet with just the cane.

Gagliano and Ellis also are looking ahead to July 19, which will be their eighth anniversary together.

"Ultimately, I'd love for us to go away," Ellis said, fighting back tears. "Our goal is to travel somewhere [for the anniversary]," but Gagliano can't—yet.

Doctors aren't sure how the air pressure in an airplane will affect Gagliano.

In early April, though, doctors declared Gagliano out of post-traumatic amnesia, which was key, they said.

"I think a big part of [Gagliano's recovery] goes to Todd's will and determination," Ellis said.

Ellis described Gagliano's first night back home as "insanely overwhelming, total elation and also total terror because now we were doing everything at home that they were doing in the hospital."

That ride home, Ellis said with tears in his eyes, "was awesome."

They were driving on Lake Shore Drive and Gagliano was reading the signs on the side of

the road, telling Ellis where things were. They stopped at Target, needing a few household items, and then Gagliano chose his first meal: McDonald's, even though they hadn't had McDonald's in three years.

Gagliano started breathing heavily that first night home and Ellis started flipping out, to put it mildly. He called the nurses immediately and asked Gagliano if he needed to be taken to the hospital. Gagliano responded, "No; I'll tell you if I need to go."

"It was a good evening, but scary," Ellis added.

Immediately after the accident, Ellis started a Caring Bridge website to update Gagliano's condition. The site has since had close to 30,000 hits.

"Our friends have been amazing. They've all been there. Everyone has been amazing," said Ellis, who noted that Gagliano's dodgeball and kickball teammates have repeatedly visited and donated edibles and more.

Gagliano knows he is "lucky" to be alive, and eternally grateful. Especially to Ellis.

"To my family and friends: Thank you for all that you have done and the time you have devoted to me," said Gagliano, who does not remember the accident or much of his hospital stay. In fact, when recently shown a photo of himself while at Holy Family, Gagliano wanted to know, "Who the heck is that?"

Gagliano said that he often wonders, "Why me?" He also, crediting advice he learned at RIC, said he thinks, "Why not me?"

"We focus that God, and whatever higher power you believe [in,] has given us the strength and ability to deal with this," Ellis said.

Gagliano helps nightly with their dinner preparation. He also helps with laundry and other chores.

"I think about how much of a miracle it is that I can stand and walk and that my brain is active," Gagliano said.

Ellis and Gagliano had their first post-accident date night in mid-April, going to the Looking-glass Theatre. Hours after meeting with this reporter for the interview, they were planning to go to a movie.

"When I saw Todd in the ICU, I thought I was going to faint," said Craig Kimberly of Chicago, a longtime friend of the two. "To see him today, it's amazing. It's a miracle, nothing short of that. And continuing."

Chuck Gagliano, Todd's brother, came to Chicago from his home in Maryland in mid-April—and hadn't been around his sibling since February. Todd wasn't walking, talking or eating last February—and was sipping coffee at Starbucks during this interview.

The improvements Todd has made are "absolutely amazing—a blessing," Chuck said. "All of the little things that we took for granted before the accident are now things that we no longer take for granted. We now really appreciate them."

Chuck and his partner, Matt Chapman, have been together for almost 11 years.

The Gaglianos' parents learned Todd was gay last November, while their son was fighting for his life. They laugh about that now.

Joann and Chuck Gagliano Sr., had visited Chicago from their Florida home in May 2010, when Todd received his master's degree. Ellis was introduced at the time as just a friend.

The night of the accident, Ellis had to tell them that their son not only had a life-threatening accident, but that they had been in a relationship for seven years, and he had power of attorney.

Two days after the accident, Chuck Sr., said to Ellis, "I don't understand, but as long as my son is happy, we're OK [with anyone's sexual orientation.]"

Everyone gets along perfectly nowadays, Ellis and Chuck Gagliano said. "His parents have been amazing," Ellis said.

The apple, Todd, doesn't fall far from the tree. "It would be much easier for me to say, 'I don't care,' and just give up. But I don't say those words," Gagliano said.

THERE'S POWER IN OUR PRIDE.



Please participate in the largest Gay & Lesbian Community Survey in history, and help demonstrate the growing Power in Our Pride.

Our 2010 survey had 45,000 respondents from over 100 countries!

Everyone who completes the survey by June 15, 2011 will be entered into a drawing to win one of five US \$100 cash prizes. (Or if you win, you may designate a non-profit charity to receive the prize.)

Please take the survey today, and tell your friends!

www.LGBTsurvey.com

About the Gay & Lesbian Community Survey®: Tremendous strides toward full equality have been achieved by our communities over the past decade. There's Power in Our Pride. Power to make a difference!

Gay and lesbian survey studies have opened doors (and minds) in leading corporations and organizations, which in turn have recognized the value of their LGBT employees through the establishment of equal hiring policies and domestic partner benefits. This has been a catalyst, leading to sweeping changes in political and social inclusivity.

Demographic reports also influence marketing investment. Virtually absent until recently, we now see a growing variety of a products and services represented in gay media, celebrating our diversity. Ads keep LGBT publications and websites in business, serving their communities with independent news and information.

Beyond simply advertising, though, these companies support us in many ways, including sponsoring community events and funding community-based charities in order to earn our loyalty.

Taking an annual pulse on market trends through surveys helps demonstrate the LGBT community's growing power, and influences positive change.

We respect your privacy. All personal survey data is held securely by Community Marketing, Inc., a gay-owned and operated, independent market research and communications firm based in San Francisco, and will not be sold to third parties or used for marketing purposes. CMI was founded in 1992 and is proudly NGLCC-Certified. Thank you!



Gay Market Research +
Development Lab™

Community Marketing, Inc.

Lesbian Market Research +
Development Lab™

a GAY in the LIFE

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY ROSS FORMAN



Theater director
Aaron M. Kubey



Aaron M. Kubey is coming home this summer. The 34-year-old now lives in West Haven, Conn., and is slated to return to Chicago in July. He is the executive director/president for the National Theatre of the Deaf, a post he is resigning, effective June 30, to pursue new endeavors.

"I first became involved with the National Theatre of the Deaf (NTD) in 1995, when I attended their summer program, The Professional Theatre School, and then was offered to work with their Los Angeles-based Little Theatre of the Deaf (LTD) that fall."

He worked with LTD until 1997.

After graduation from the Theatre School at DePaul in 2006, Kubey moved to New York City to do a show and he ended up running the New York Deaf Theatre.

Then, in November 2007, Kubey moved to Connecticut to become the first deaf executive director/president of NTD.

"Over the past three and a half years, I've expanded the company, have re-established our international connections and revitalized the organization," Kubey said.

"I have, however, made a personal decision to resign and move back to Chicago in July. I am looking forward to coming back home and writing the next chapter of my life."

With fond memories of his last 20 years, including the 1994 performance in the Netherlands and Belgium, and in 2010 to direct and teach in Finland.

His most memorable theatre moment was performing Equus at Deaf West Theatre in 1996.

"I am leaving the organization," Kubey said. "Other than coming back home to Chicago, I don't know what will happen next. I hope to teach, consult, direct, and be an inspirational speaker of sorts."

"Deaf theatre is a very unique style of theatre that uses American Sign Language and turns it into a very expressive art form. I truly believe that people get more meaning and emotions from deaf theatre."



Kubey (second from left) with actors from Little Theatre of the Deaf.

the stats

Name
Aaron M. Kubey

Hometown
Beverly, Ill.

Hobbies
Travel, sports and karaoke ("Yes, I'm deaf and I sing.")

Relationship status
Single

Little-known fact
"I used to write poetry."

Favorite Chicago restaurant
PingPong

Favorite Chicago bar
Sidetrack

Daily ritual
"My XL hazelnut with extra cream and no sugar from Dunkin Donuts every morning, and singing along to my music while driving to work."



Have your premiums increased recently?

See me:
Charles T. Rhodes,
Agent
2472 N. Clark
773.281.0890

State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (not in NJ)
State Farm Indemnity Company (NJ)
Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois

Friday, May 13
7:30 p.m.
Linda Stout
Collective Visioning

Monday, May 16
6:00 p.m.
Reading by Students from
Peirce School's 7th Grade



5233 N. Clark
(773) 769-9299

wcfbooks@aol.com
www.womenandchildrenfirst.com
Parking Available
Wheelchair Accessible

HEROIN AND PAIN PILL ADDICTION

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

LOW COST & CONFIDENTIAL

- SAME DAY DOSING
- COMPASSIONATE STAFF
- ALL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AT FRONT DOOR
- FREE VITAMIN PACK DAILY
- FREE GOURMET COFFEE
- FREE PHONE USE (LOCAL & LONG DISTANCE)
- FREE WEEK OF SERVICES ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

Sundance Methadone Treatment Center
4545 Broadway, Chicago
773-784-1111

www.SUNDANCECHICAGO.com

FREE FIVE-DAY BUS PASS FOR JOINING WITH MENTION OF THIS AD



/windycitymediagroup
/nightspots
/windycitygayidol

You like?

AIDS @30

A WINDY CITY
TIMES

SPECIAL PROJECT

A special series in partnership with the
AIDS Foundation of Chicago

Rahm Emanuel and CDPH commissioner address AIDS in Chicago

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Among the myriad topics Mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel must confront during his term, which starts May 16, are health issues concerning the LGBT community—including AIDS.

In a conversation with Windy City Times, Emanuel and Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) Commissioner Bechara Choucair talked about issues such as funding, the Office of LGBT Health and the national AIDS conference that is coming to Chicago in November. However, the talk began with a major announcement involving Emanuel and Choucair.

Windy City Times: I understand that you have an announcement to make regarding the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Rahm Emanuel: Yes. Dr. Choucair is going to remain commissioner. We had a meeting of the minds about what I think the office can do, what I think he can do to carry out the changes we need to make sure we're doing what we need to do as it relates to public health.

WCT: Can you give me an example of the direction you'd like the office to go in?

Bechara Choucair: Andrew, I'm very excited that the mayor has asked me to continue to serve in my capacity as commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health, and I look forward to working with the dynamic and diverse group of leaders he's putting together.

As far as direction, I've been in the office for a little bit over a year. We laid the groundwork and I'm really excited about taking it to the next level.

There are three items I want to highlight. First, we need to better collaborate with [Cook County] to insure services are available to residents in our city. The second piece is that when you consider a city of 2.7 million residents or so, we have to concentrate our efforts on sustainable policy changes and environmental changes. The third piece I want to highlight is that we have to continue to be innovative in our approaches and, now more than ever, we have to continue to engage our community partners in a meaningful way.

RE: First of all, I think the doctor is uniquely qualified but he's put together a reform agenda and I don't think he's had an opportunity to see all the reforms and changes through. I want his energy and commitment since he's developed it. If you had somebody else, he'd be implementing Dr. Choucair's policy—and I didn't want that. I want someone who's emotionally and intellectually committed to these reforms that I wholeheartedly endorse. So that's why I've asked him to stay on and to continue to see through these reforms.

WCT: What do you think are the LGBT health issues that are most in need of tackling?

BC: We all know that there are significant health disparities impacting the LGBT community. I know that you're probably aware of the [U.S.] Department of Health and Human Services

report that has included LGBT-related issues for the first time. The reality, though, is that many of the issues facing the LGBT community are the same issues that are faced by everyone else: obesity, tobacco use, access to care, heart health, HIV, substance abuse. So as we set our workplan, as a department, on these important public-health issues it is really important that we look at it [in terms of] cultural competency. That way, we can ensure that the needs of the LGBT community and other communities are being addressed appropriately.

WCT: Will the Office of LGBT Health still be around?



Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) Commissioner Bechara Choucair.

RE: Well, here's the way I'm looking at it: I want you to know that I'm making no pledges on anything. When I get to the office as mayor, not mayor-elect, [I'd like to] have all the departments review the choices we need to make. I'd like to do that, but I think it'd be inappropriate if I made a pledge until I saw the whole picture.

I've heard from the community, and I share their aspirations. But I have to tell the truth and, as a city, we have to face hard truths and hard choices. I'm not making a commitment without knowing the full extent of where we are financially as a city. Our budget today reflects as if we're living in 1995-1996 when, in fact, the economy is not in that position. So the long and short of it is: I share the goal, I'm not ready to make that commitment until I see the totality of our financial picture.

WCT: OK. I was looking at an AIDS Foundation of Chicago survey you completed a while back. You supported a lot of different issues, but as I was going through I was thinking there is a difference between wanting to support something and being able to.

RE: Let me say it again: I share the aspiration, and I don't have the full budget. Do you know how big the shortfall is?

WCT: Obviously, it's significant.



Mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel. Photo by Jerry Nunn

RE: I know that, too. I have to get my hands around that. Making pledges I can't keep is kinda worse than telling people the truth. It's a goal I like to share but the question is, "Can I achieve it another way?" If the only way I can do is the office, what are the choices I'm willing to make and the sacrifices I'm ready to make throughout the budget or in the department? As [President John F.] Kennedy said, "To govern is to choose." At this point, I can say with all honesty that it's an aspiration and a desire. If I decide to keep [the Office of LGBT Health], I gotta make some other calls where I'm going to make cuts.

I want the public to know [after I make decisions] that these are the trade-offs—that's why I'm not ready to make a pledge.

WCT: As of March of this year, more than 36,000 Chicagoans have been reported to CDPH with HIV since the early '80s. Of that amount, 39 percent have died. Did you think we'd be at this point—where there is no cure three decades after the virus was discovered?

BC: I think, Andrew, over the last 30 years much has been accomplished, whether on a local, national or global level. We have seen significant improvement in prevention strategies, treatment and overall policy. We've made a lot of progress. Are we where we need to be? We still have a lot of work ahead of us.

RE: I want to echo that even further. You can look at from the fair [perspective], "Thirty years later we don't have a cure." On the other hand ... look, I lost a cousin to AIDS. The notion between time of contraction and death is [longer]; we have extended people's lives. But it's not just extending their lives; individuals with AIDS can function in a normal sense. That wasn't true for my cousin.

So, no we don't have a cure; that's the journey we're still on. But when you look where we were when Ronald Reagan wouldn't recognize it as a president to extending people's lives When I think of my cousin, Gary, we are light-years ahead of that on the preventive side as well.

You asked the right question. I think, as any of us who's in the midst of public policy and has been exposed to the public-policy choices [regarding] medical care and preventive care, we aren't where we were in 1984, '85, '86—or, for that matter, I remember the battle for Ryan White funding in 1993. To know where you're going, you have to know how far you've traveled.

WCT: The country's largest gathering on AIDS—the U.S. Conference on AIDS—will be in Chicago this November. That made me wonder: How is Chicago handling the HIV/AIDS crisis in comparison to other large cities around the nation?

RE: The good news is that we have until November. [Laughs] First of all, I think it's appropriate that Chicago is hosting that conference. We have a lot to talk about as a city—not just about approaching AIDS as an illness, but as a community. I'll be mayor at that time, and I look forward to hosting that conference and talking about what we've done and what we can learn to do better—and I think everybody will bring those experiences from their respective cities.

WCT: How will the department reach out to certain "at-risk" communities—minorities (especially African Americans), the transgender community and men who have sex with men [MSM]—in light of possible reduction of funding?

BC: It's really important to note that we put the majority of our funding out to community-based organizations that do a lot of services for our residents. Actually, 64 percent of our funding goes out to a competitive bidding process for community-based organizations. You know that these three populations that you mentioned—the MSM population has been our highest priority for years. We also have a lot of interest in the transgender community and, obviously, the majority of our HIV funding goes to racial and ethnic minority populations. So we have identified and flagged these priority communities to make sure our funding is targeted appropriately.

Also, keep in mind that we do that in partnership with the community. Two bodies that actually help drive our strategy are the HIV Prevention Planning Group and the Chicago Area Services Planning Council. Walter Mall and Martine Gonzalez from the HPPG as well as Jeff Wiloughby and Peter McCoy from the Chicago Area Services Planning Council really help drive the way we invest our resources.

WCT: Is there anything either one of you wanted to add?

RE: I'm just looking forward to giving the doctor his assignment to get ready [for the AIDS conference in] November. Thank you for that, Andrew. I have to be honest: I didn't know about that, and I want to make sure the city is the right type of host.

War Diaries: An Interview with Ernest Hardy

BY YASMIN NAIR

Ernest Hardy's influential and outspoken body of work includes fiction, poetry, film and music criticism that has appeared in *The New York Times*, *the Village Voice*, *LA Weekly*, *Millennium Film Journal*, *Rolling Stone*, *the Source*, *Vibe*, and *the LA Times*.

A Sundance Fellow who currently resides in Los Angeles, Hardy is a contributor to the reference books *1,001 Movies You Must See Before You Die*; *Classic Material: The Hip-Hop Album Guide*; and *Hip-Hop: A Cultural Odyssey*. His 2006 volume of criticism, *Blood Beats Vol. 1*, which he has described as "melanin-based, pro-people-of-color, pro-queer, and unabashedly-leftist," won the PEN/Beyond Margins award in 2007.

Most recently, Hardy co-edited, with Tisa Bryant, the Lambda Literary Award-nominated anthology *War Diaries*, about the experiences of LGBTQs within the African diaspora, with an emphasis on their relationship to HIV. Hardy is working on *Blood Beats Vol. 3*, his third volume of cultural criticism. He will be in town May 12 for a talk at DePaul, and we interviewed him via email.

Yasmin Nair: Could you tell us what impelled the creation of *War Diaries*—what historical moments, what kinds of narratives did you think needed to be examined?

Ernest Hardy: *War Diaries* came about simply because Pato Hebert [senior education associate with the Global Forum on MSM & HIV and at AIDS Project Los Angeles] reached out to Tisa Bryant and me and asked if we'd be interested in co-editing a literary anthology for APLA. APLA publishes several literary lines (available free of charge) that target queer youth, the Latino community, and so on—communities that historically have fallen through the cracks or been poorly served in terms of HIV and AIDS outreach services. He told us they were putting together their latest anthology targeting the African American male segment of the LGBT community, with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS in that community, and asked if we'd be interested in co-editing.

Tisa and I both immediately said yes. We knew we wanted the collection to have a wide-lens focus because the issue of HIV/AIDS and the various struggles around them exist in a layered context of racism, classism, cultural redlining within the LGBT community, homophobia in all its permutations (large-scale societal; within the African American community; internalized, etc.), as well as the huge issue of violence directed toward LGBT folk in horrifying ways and proportions. Issues of depression, suicide and bullying are major components at work in the community. (The volume is dedicated to the memories of Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover and Jaheem Herrera, two pre-teen boys of color who committed suicide within less than two weeks of each other in 2009, well before the recent wave of queer teen suicides.)

We wanted work that encompassed all of that, on a very large scale. But we also wanted work that was playful, erotic, multi-generational, international in scope, written by lesbians as well as gay/SGL men, and ultimately celebratory of our lives. We wanted to create a time capsule of now, something that captured both the insane tenor and the concrete complexities of the time in which we live. But we also wanted balance. What we didn't want was to create a world mired



The cover of *War Diaries*.

in gloom, doom and despair because that's very one-note and nowhere near the width and breadth of the realities of Black LGBT folk—neither historically nor in contemporary terms.

YN: In your introduction with Tisa Bryant, you begin with the words, "We're in a war," and go on to expand on that. Did the metaphor/idea of war come to you at the start? Is that what shaped the anthology? Or is it something that emerged as you gathered the materials?

EH: I wish I could give you some dazzling recap of long, theory-driven conversations between us to arrive at the title but the truth is simply that when Deborah Richards' amazing poem "War Diaries (loose leaf)" arrived, I turned to Tisa and said, "That's our title." It just fit the work that was already trickling in to us. And then in the cosmic way things like this happen, the rest of the work we received from that point on just sort of naturally fit the title and the narrative that was emerging unforced.

YN: In M.R. Daniel's prose piece "Why I Needed You: Max Robinson (1939-1988)," she talks about the complex legacy of Max Robinson, expressed most vividly in the words, "He could simultaneously inhabit the postures of pretty-man and bad-ass motherfucker." In "In the life on the down low: where's a black gay man to go?" Keith M. Harris writes about the period of time between Joseph Beam's *In the Life*, and J.L. King's *On the Down Low*. Others write about the complicated intersections between love and homophobia in Black Jamaican families, and Nimblett's "To the Mother of My Openly Gay Son," asks a woman to never stop loving a child because he is gay. Does *War Diaries* attempt to draw a portrait of the complicated realities of Black gay life since and in between Robinson, Beam, and J.L. King?

EH: That specifically wasn't a conscious decision on our part but I do think it does that. And I'd just like to say that J.L. King, an undeniably noteworthy cultural figure for his charlatan's part in perpetuating that DL nonsense, doesn't deserve to be mentioned in the same sentence as brilliant, complex and important men like Mr. Beam and Mr. Robinson.

YN: What decisions informed your choice of works for the anthology?

EH: We just wanted good work. It's as simple as that. We wanted quality work—both the visual and the written fare. As I said before, we were after a massive canvas of issues, politics and aesthetics to be represented. And we were thrilled and pleasantly surprised to get poems, short stories, cultural reportage in the form of essays, great photographic work, and experimental writing that anchored the collection in history, that looked forward, and that did such a wonderful job of capturing the complex emotional, psychological and material worlds of Black queer/gay/SGL men around the world today.

YN: Clearly, AIDS manifests itself differently—socially, economically, politically—in the Black queer community than it does in the white queer community, where it is one more chronic disease. How does that manifest itself in the care accessed by Black queers and in the literary representations? Is there a difference?

EH: That's actually a very complex, layered question. To answer the first half of it with any degree of intelligence—before even getting to the question of literary representations—I would have to be much more versed in up-to-date, hard factual data about healthcare services/funding/resources in various arenas, about the real allocation of and discrepancies in those resources, and so on. Even to the casual eye there are obvious fucked up, fatal differences between the healthcare of African Americans and white Americans—though healthcare in this country is abysmal for most people regardless of race. But historically it's always been true that African Americans are horribly served by the medical community/industry (see both Harriet A. Washington's *Medical Apartheid* and Rebecca Skloot's *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*), and when you factor in institutional (and other) homophobia as well as racism within the queer community, it's a recipe for disaster for the Black queer/SGL community.

I think our literature has long reflected the fallout of that reality, explicitly and implicitly—from the seminal work of people like Essex Hemphill and Assotto Saint up through and including many of the poets in *War Diaries*. But in my opinion this question, as posed, really needs to be answered with and centered on serious data from studies across disciplines. That's not my field of expertise and I'm uncomfortable speculating. But as I said before, APLA does this kind of literary outreach work because the rates of infection amongst and the levels of treatment for people of color are depressingly and dangerously life threatening, even fatal.

YN: Your addendum is a series of missives from the White House regarding its commitment to LGBT issues. Why as an addendum? In a book that demonstrates a great awareness of the construction of language, it's difficult to read them without the gloss of irony. And yet, of course, the election of the first Black president has enormous significance on the community of Black and LGBTQs in particular. Could you expand on that section and why and how you came to choose it for inclusion?

EH: President Obama was elected around the same time that *War Diaries* was taking shape. Due to funding snafus that almost killed the project altogether, it didn't actually come out until a year and a half—maybe almost two



Ernest Hardy.

years—after it was supposed to. The president had made history by addressing and acknowledging the LGBT community the way he did, by making certain promises that no president had made before. That was historic and fit our self-scribed mandate to capture a time capsule of what was happening in the U.S. and the world as the collection was being put together. Now, the way a lot of those promises and the hope they engendered played—or fizzled—out (even though a lot was followed through on) has resulted in cynicism and disappointment for a lot of LGBT folk, but not necessarily as deeply or significantly amongst a lot of Black LGBT folk as for others. The ironic reading you give the addendum is, I think, not uncommon. I also think, however, that reaction is very different to what it might have been had *War Diaries* been released on schedule. But that's the beauty of this kind of politically charged work. Its meanings are not static. They will continue to shift and hopefully deepen as the world around it changes.

YN: Do you think those promises, if we may call them such, made in those missives, have been kept? Or can they be kept? Should we even think about them as promises?

EH: The president is a masterful politician.

YN: And we'll leave it at that. Several of the works are strongly erotic, and record moments of desire and laughter even as they nod to the complications of characters' lives. How do we write about AIDS in the Black LGBTQ community while also keeping alive that eroticism and laughter, as you point out in your introduction?

EH: We just do it. Don't over think it. Don't turn it into an academic exercise. At the risk of sounding corny, if you as a poet or novelist are truly in touch with the human spirit, with human nature, it will come to you. You may still suffer writer's block and still have to wrestle with whatever you wrestle with simply to be a good writer, but because laughter and eroticism exist in real life, even in the face of the most dire circumstances, they will come and be present in the work of the writers who are open to them. Just know that both the laughter and eroticism may be dark as fuck. And that's cool too.

Ernest Hardy will give a talk entitled "Don't Believe the hype: Refocusing the Lens on Hip-Hop, Masculinity and Queer of Color identity." The event takes place at DePaul Student Center, 2250 N Sheffield Ave, Room 325, May 12, 3-5 p.m. *War Diaries* is available as a free download at: apla.org/publications/publications.html

Hardy's website is ernesthardy.com.

Yasmin Nair can be reached at welshzen@yahoo.com. Her website is at yasminnair.net.

Interview: Cleve Jones

BY SARAH TOCE

Cleve Jones, the man who once stood beside Harvey Milk and later created the NAMES Project AIDS Quilt, is filled with history. It spills out of his pores in a consistent stream of nourishing calm and unrivaled assumption. His voice clear, his palms steady ... Jones lived through the beginning of the AIDS epidemic strengthened by his background in politics. He helped educate the masses speaking from what he knows best—his heart, his experiences, his legacy, and his unbridled heroism.

In 2011, 30 years following the start of the epidemic that took out almost his entire neighborhood in the Castro district of San Francisco, Jones remembers where he's been and where the LGBT movement is going.

Windy City Times: Many people might not know that you conceived the idea of the AIDS Memorial Quilt while attending Harvey Milk's candlelight vigil service in San Francisco following his assassination. How exactly did the two pieces of your life fit together?

CJ: Well, Harvey Milk and George Moscone were assassinated on Nov. 27, 1978 and every year since on Nov. 27, folks have gathered and walked with candles to remember Harvey and George. In 1985, I was one of the organizers of the commemoration and in the days leading up to Nov. 27, a headline appeared in the San Francisco daily newspaper—The Chronicle—that 1,000 people had already died of AIDS in our neighborhood. That number would soon grow to about 1,500 per year in our little tiny neighborhood, which was only six or eight blocks. So, I was really devastated by that figure and ... can I ask how old you are?

WCT: I am 27.

CJ: Yeah, see your generation just has no clue at how horrible it was. So, I was just devastated by that figure. I remember standing at the corner of Castro and Market and looking at that headline and understanding that of those thousands who had gone, almost every one of them lived and died within just a few blocks of where I was standing and there was no evidence. The neighborhood looks much the same today—beautiful restored Victorians, cafes, restaurants, etc. There is just really no hint of the incredible loss that we've experienced here. So, that added to what was already an ongoing theme of discussion for me and my friends. Our inability to communicate to the rest of the world what was really happening was very present.

So we marched as we always do, but in the hours before the march Nov. 27, 1985, my friends and I had stacks of poster board and magic markers and I had Harvey's old bullhorn and I talked to the crowd. I asked them to write down the names of their friends and lovers who had died of this disease—AIDS. At first people were ashamed to do it!

WCT: What were those next moments like?

CJ: The stigma associated with the disease was so overwhelming that people were just putting down initials or first names only. Gradually people began to write down the first and last names of their friends, lovers and roommates who had died of AIDS. It was painful, being so young [and experiencing such loss].

We marched as we always do down to City Hall and then made everybody walk a couple more blocks to the old federal building at the United Nations Plaza. We had extension ladders and climbed the front of the building and taped the names of our dead friends to the wall. When I got off my ladder and looked around at this weird patchwork, I thought, "This looks like some kind of peculiar quilt." When I said the

word 'quilt,' I thought of my grandmothers and great-grandmothers and it seemed to me to be one of those middle-America, traditional-values symbols. I believe in traditional family values as I understand them [laughs]. Love, loyalty, respect ... I got it right then. A quilt.

WCT: How was this idea perceived at first by others?

CJ: Everybody said it was the stupidest thing they ever heard of. For a year and a half I thought about it while everybody told me it was the dumbest thing they had ever heard of—too expensive, too morbid, too this, too that—story of my life [laughs].

You know, when I talk to young people about the quilt, I want them to know that there was no support for the idea at all in the beginning. None of the national organizations thought it was a good idea. None of the rich people thought it was a good idea. They thought it was just crazy. During this year-and-a-half before I started it, my tests came back and I learned that I was also infected and my best friend died. His name was Marvin Feldman. In the middle of all that mess, I was attacked by fag-bashers who beat me up very badly and stabbed me.

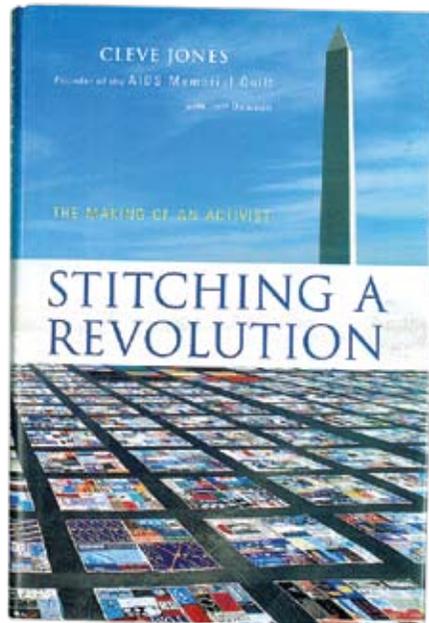
By 1986, my heart was just filled with hate, fear and despair. I am so grateful that the quilt did happen because it rescued me from that hate, fear and despair and turned it all into love, courage and hope. It reconnected me with all the good people out there, gay and straight alike, who understood the epidemic.

WCT: The very first AIDS Memorial Quilt panel was constructed by you for your best friend, Marvin Feldman, in 1987.

CJ: Yes, my friend Joseph Durant and I made the first, I think, 40 panels. I made the first one for Marvin. Joseph made one for a man named Ed Mock. Those were the first two quilt panels.

WCT: You co-founded the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in 1983. At that time, did you imagine a cure would have been found by 2011?

CJ: Yes, I started it with Dr. Marcus Conant and Bob Ross and others. I don't think I thought in those terms. I think at the beginning we believed we could stop it. I still think we could've stopped it if everyone had responded but they didn't. I'm very glad I didn't know at the time how long it would go on for. I am not sure I would've had the strength to continue with it if I had known that the following generations would have to suffer so terribly.



The cover of Jones' NAMES Project book.

Back then, you didn't even have the luxury of thinking it all through. It was just like living in a war. When you are living in a war, your lifetime becomes very much a day-to-day and even an hour-by-hour experience. In those days I don't think any of us, certainly anyone I knew, thought or planned more than a couple weeks ahead. There was no way of knowing how long we would live or what would happen to our circles of friends. It was so overwhelming and all-consuming and it was really fought hour-by-hour and day-to-day.

WCT: Not to compare the two circumstances because they are obviously extremely different in nature, but we are in the middle of a civil-rights movement in the LGBT community where laws are changing and legislation is being repealed depending on the state and day at-hand. Sometimes it feels like we're living hour-by-hour with DOMA, DADT, etc. It can be very overwhelming. What advice do you have for this new generation of gay advocates?

CJ: I think it's very important that young people in general, but especially queer youth, know the history of our community and our movement. One can acquire that knowledge relatively easily through many sources. There is a wonderful new documentary that just came out called We Were Here about my neighborhood, the Castro, and our experience with the epidemic.

I think it's very important for your generation to understand that you don't know. You need to start from there—you don't know. I'm speaking generally, it's quite possible that you yourself know [laughs] ... but as a generation, you have been denied this information, history and knowledge. It happened at the institutional level that this information was not taught to you in schools. Also, the transmission of information among generation of gay men to the next was so profoundly disrupted by the epidemic. So, what your generation needs to know is that half of the men of my generation were killed and the government did nothing. There was a time when we cried every day for 10 years. I, myself, lived with the knowledge that I had the virus for a full 10 years before treatment was available. So, for a full decade I wondered how many days I had left. It affected everything about our movement and our community.

WCT: The lesbian population really had a huge role during the early epidemic years. This is something not really spoken about in our semi-apathetic community nowadays. Can you tell us about their importance during this time?

CJ: People think of AIDS as the "gay men's disease," but there is very little information and discussion out there about the role lesbians played in fighting the epidemic. When I came out, women were separate from men. There was a very strong movement at the time called lesbian separatism and there was great hostility and very little interaction between men and women. The epidemic changed that forever. Women emerged first in the more traditional roles of caregiver but then very quickly took over the leadership of one organization after another as men got sick and died. Lesbian women in particular played a very powerful role in fighting back against the epidemic. It changed us in every way.

WCT: AIDS outed many people in the early days. Can you explain more about this for us?

CJ: I think it's important for people to understand that this movement was very, very young and it was very radical. We were a liberation movement and we used that vocabulary. Most of us had previously been involved in the anti-war movement during the Vietnam War or the early



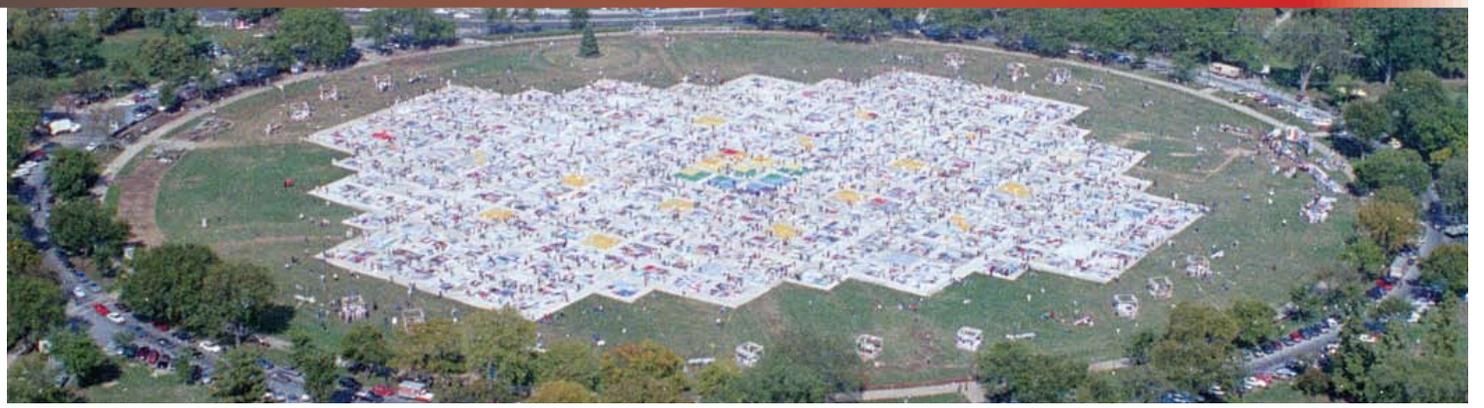
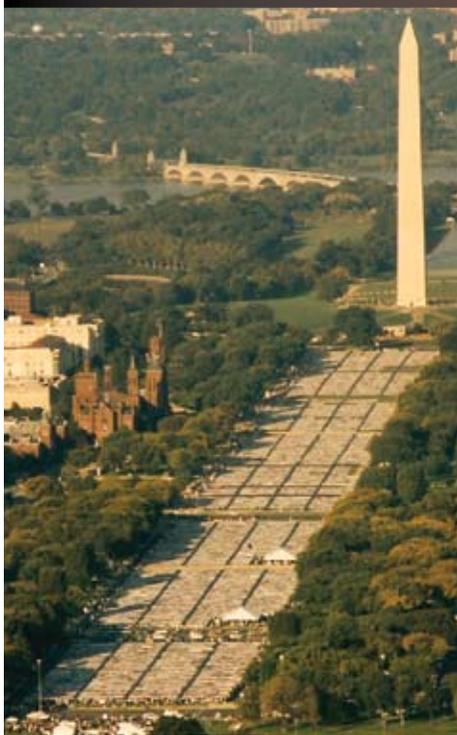
Cleve Jones in 1978. Photo copyright Jerry Pritikin

feminist movement and civil-rights movement. We had been fighting for social justice for other people. But then, following the Stonewall Rebellion in 1969 and the spread of the gay liberation across campuses, there was this very early, very tiny, very radical movement. Just as it was gaining a little bit of traction—just the tiniest bit of visibility and political power—we got hit with AIDS. That changed everything.

One of the things that it changed, for example, was that most people in those days did not come out of the closet. If you wanted any type of professional success, you did not come out. Those of us who were out and revealed our sexual orientation to our families, friends and to the public, were immediately cast out of even the most comfortable middle-class existence. Before the epidemic, the movement was led by radicals, street people and people like me who came from middle-class backgrounds but we gave that up because we understood clearly that to come out of the closet meant to give that up. There were no queer business leaders or media figures, let alone politicians when we started this so, one of the things that happened was that the epidemic outed people in huge numbers. It suddenly became impossible to live in the closet. It might be that you stayed in the closet your whole life, sang in the choir at church and convinced your parents that you were just a bachelor, but then suddenly you get these purple spots on your face. Then what are you going to do? Keep lying while you wait to die? People were outed by caring for their partners. Some people finally just said, "Fuck it, I am not going to lie. The love of my life is dying. I've been with my partner for 20 years and I am not going to lie." So, the epidemic outed a lot of us and forced us to do things we had never done before.

WCT: How has leadership changed in the LGBT community since the beginning of the movement?

CJ: When Harvey ran for election that last campaign in 1977, my recollection is that the total budget for his campaign was \$30,000. Just a few years after that, LGBT communities nationwide were routinely raising and spending millions of dollars because we had to provide education, services and the rest of it. So then that changed the leadership of the movement. It gave rise to the emergence of the gay bureaucracy. I'm not using the word 'bureaucrat' in a negative sense. Bureaucrats have a function. The leadership of the movement changed. It had come from the radicals, poets, revolutionaries, artists, and drag queens on the street into the



LEFT: Opening of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt as seen from a Helicopter, 1400 feet above, in Washington, D.C., 1996. ABOVE: The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt display in Washington, D.C. in 1989. Photos by Bruce Barnes

social service providing network and required tens of millions of dollars and experience that we didn't have.

The leadership shifted to the donors and administrators and these people are by definition cautious and conservative. Rich people and rich donors who were never present in the early days of the movement. The really wealthy folks out there that underwrite so many of our organizations tend to be conservative because they're rich. The fundraisers—who go out and beg those rich people for money—tend to be conservative and cautious. The administrators who are responsible for keeping the grant money coming in, providing the social services and meeting payroll every two weeks are also by nature more conservative and cautious than the wild-eyed radical dreamers who started the movement. So, there was a profound change in the type of leadership that we have and that goes back to the epidemic.

I'll tell you another thing that started with the epidemic—the fight for marriage equality. Now,

I make a joke where I say, "I joined the gay liberation front in 1972 and if you told me that in the year 2011, I'd be campaigning for the right to join the army and get married, I'd start dating women!" That was not what we were about. We were a part of a broader radical movement that we hoped would dismantle the patriarchy and end war forever. But, I think this focus on marriage equality has its roots in the pandemic. There were all of these couples who fought so hard and lost their fight, but after 20 years of grief, heartbreak, loss, and solidarity just said, "What do you mean this isn't a marriage? Fuck you. Fuck you. This is a marriage and if you think otherwise, you are wrong and I am going to fight you. I want the benefits and I want the acknowledgement. This is a marriage. This is a family. This is a community." I would suggest that the whole notion of a queer community was really a theory until AIDS. With AIDS it showed us just how strong we were.

Cleve Jones travels extensively sharing his experiences, including the AIDS epidemic, NAMES Quilt, and other LGBT topics affecting our community past, present and future. Jones authored *Stitching a Revolution* in 2001 and served as historical consultant on Gus Van Sant's feature film, *Milk*, profiling the life and untimely death of LGBT political activist Harvey Milk. He co-founded the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and currently lives in Palm Springs, Calif.



Cleve Jones (in glasses) at the 1993 March on Washington for LGBT rights. Photo by Pat Bechtold/Outlines newspaper

Chicago photographer documents AIDS Quilt history

BY TERENCE CHAPPELL

When AIDS first struck the United States in the 1980s, doctors were at a loss, the public was in a frenzy, and people were dying, sometimes within days of diagnosis. Little was known about the virus associated with AIDS, other than that it killed—and killed fast.

In its infancy, it was called GRID or gay-related immune deficiency, since it was believed it only targeted gay men and certain groups. The "4H" disease was another title applied to AIDS, which singled out Haitians, homosexuals, hemophiliacs, and heroin users. It was not until 1982 when the U.S. Centers for Disease Control started using the name AIDS to define the illness, and researchers discovered the disease was not exclusive to certain groups.

Out of this tragedy came empowerment, as people with AIDS and their allies created support structures, and new ways to remember those lost to the disease. One such effort was the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, started in 1985 by activist Cleve Jones in San Francisco.

If Jones was the mouth that supplied a voice to the voiceless people who died from AIDS complications, then Chicago-based volunteer and photographer Bruce Barnes provided the eyes that captured the hurt, the closure and the memories of those survivors with the snap of his camera lenses.

Barnes' Humboldt Park home, which he shares

with partner Ben Ziola, is a visual maze of his NAMES Project archive, and it conveys his passion and dedication to the quilt. His walls are filled with framed photos that tell the story of the NAMES Project and its displays in Washington, D.C. and Chicago. Barnes' own story includes losing his then-partner to AIDS, sharing that hurt, finding his closure, and how his camera snapped him into the middle of a touching national movement.

WCT: How did you get involved with the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt?

BB: They were looking for volunteers for the display in Chicago in 1988, and I volunteered with a bunch of friends. We were part of the local team who set up the event for the host city. I initially played a small part, but that quickly changed when it rained in the cavernous buildings at the old Navy Pier. Someone had to step up to the plate and my background always taught me to be responsible and "do the right thing."

WCT: What attracted you to the quilt?

BB: All the people that I lost, all the friends that I lost. The emotions that were involved in it and paying tribute to all the people who gave so much to society and were now gone. When you see a panel, made for a deceased individual, who has died of AIDS, lying on a floor, or hanging from a wall, in a display, it is moving. When you actually hold that same panel, inspect it for damage, and have to clean and repair the deli-

cate work that someone created in someone's memory, it is as if the people involved, both the living and the dead, are sitting in the room and watching over your shoulder. Their spirits are there to both keep you company during the cleaning or repair process and make certain you work in a respectful manner.

WCT: How was it working on such a deep, emotional project?

BB: The project itself was very emotional. Once I started seeing the panels [quilts] open, I knew that I would have to either become completely emotionally involved or not be able to do anything because of the impact. There's a lot of love. There is a lot of personal, heart-felt work that goes into every single one of the panels. So, I separated myself. I just sort of walked around and captured images. It became mechanical and at the same time emotional. The emotions took over, and I just kind of worked with the mechanics of it. I did take breaks throughout the day. I had to because it was just so overwhelming. If I had not, I wouldn't have been able to last.

WCT: It seems as though the quilt itself was an "activist" in the early AIDS movement.

BB: The quilt has its own karma that sort of goes with it. It's the spirit of everyone who has ever done a panel or has a panel. They are all participating in the protection of the quilt all the time. It really is a unique item in America. It keeps memories warm and memories fresh.

WCT: Did you contribute a quilt?



Ben Ziola and Bruce Barnes taken at a friend's wedding at Union Station in Los Angeles on Saturday, June 12, 2010.

BB: Yes. I created a quilt for my then-partner, Mel, that was with me in D.C. in 1992. A friend of mine who does embroidery embroidered the popular dance lyric onto the panel, "If you get there before I do, don't give up on me. I'll be there when my chores are through. I don't know how long that will be, but between now and then, until I see you again, I'll be loving you love me." I didn't turn it [the panel] in until 1996 or 1997 after the display in D.C.

WCT: What took you so long to turn the quilt in?

BB: Letting go. It was part of the relationship.



Danny Sotomayor's Quilt panel being turned in during the October 1992 NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Project Quilt Display in Washington, D.C. Photo by Bruce Barnes

PHOTOGRAPHER from page 17

Whether it's a partner or a parent, no one likes to lose anyone. When you have years of bonding between you, and someone is taken away from you in a matter of seconds—which was the case with Mel—it's very difficult. Even putting something together to remember somebody by, it's not easy to let go.

WCT: How did you feel once you finally turned Mel's quilt into the AIDS Memorial Quilt?

BB: I had a lot of friends with me. I had a good support team.

WCT: The quilt is no longer under Cleve Jones but under corporate ownerships. How

do you feel about that?

BB: I'm hurt because I think that the people who started it in San Francisco, the people who got the space donated, the people who got Kodak to document it, the people who busted their butts every time we wanted to do a major display in D.C. should have a say.

WCT: When you started working in Chicago on behalf of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, who were some of your allies?

BB: Obviously, [Ald.] Helen Shiller. She was the only one who would stand up for the fact that funding was needed for people living with AIDS in Chicago. She went up against the city and demanded funding from [Mayor Richard] Da-

ley and got that money because she was just so persistent.

WCT: What was Chicago's response when the AIDS Memorial Quilt was brought here?

BB: It was great. They had about 66,000 people go through the display. It was featured at Navy Pier back in 1988. It was at the McCormick place twice but we were way down in the second lower basement of the original McCormick place. The floors were dirty. It was a dingy, low-ceilinging area. It wasn't a big white area where they would put the auto show or something nice like that. So, it was hard for the public to find it, but people still came to see it. A lot of people still came to see it when it was down there.

WCT: How do you feel the quilt helped people cope?

BB: Initially, it wasn't so much about helping people to cope. Originally, it was about getting the word out and educating people. We still need to educate people that there is still a huge crisis out there. The NAMES Project did that very effectively with its displays.

WCT: So many people who were living with AIDS worked on the quilt, some even died while touring with the NAMES Project. How do you feel about that?

BB: This was a goal. This was a destination for some people. They had lost so many friends. They were sick. They wanted to get there. They went and that was the end of their journey. They didn't have anything more they wanted to

accomplish. It's like the old man who has 30 grandchildren and has to wait for everyone to get assembled in the bedroom, so that he can say goodbye, tell them to listen to their moms and dads, and help out, and then dies shortly after the last person says goodbye to him. It's just amazing how people can hold out. I saw that time and time again.

WCT: Why do you think the quilt grew in popularity among supporters and volunteers?

BB: It was like the HIV virus; it knew no bounds. It grew because of love, care, and dedication, and a bunch of people who wanted to memorialize those who have gone on and educate the people who were ignorant. It's done a very good job.

WCT: How can people keep the memory of the AIDS Memorial Quilt alive?

BB: I would love to see the NAMES Project mount another large display. I don't know if that can be done. I don't know if there is the volunteerism and motivation that was out there.

WCT: You have a visual library of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. Where do you go from here?

BB: I'm working to mount a display for when the U.S. Conference on AIDS comes to Chicago in November. Eventually, the collection will go to the Kinsey Institute at Indiana University. I realize it doesn't do anyone any good just to keep it [the pictures] in my house at this point. At least, they will have a permanent home there.

In Chicago, it's always a 'Season' to give

BY JOHN ACCROCCO

Although the Goodman Theatre may never out-sell the Cubs, their cultural significance to this city is not to be ignored. What would Chicago be without its diverse theater community? Thirty years ago when HIV/AIDS was first striking in the United States, the theater world was particularly hard-hit. Several organizations were formed to fight back against AIDS. Season of Concern is Chicago's answer for people in the theater community living with HIV/AIDS. The organization has evolved from helping just those with HIV/AIDS to those who are suffering from catastrophic illness or injury.

In the early 1980s the Chicago theater community lost two of its own to AIDS complications: Tom Biscotto and J. Pat Miller. Out of this tragedy The Biscotto-Miller fund was born. The Biscotto-Miller fund began as a fundraising effort by the friends of Tom Biscotto and J. Pat Miller to create a cash fund to help HIV/AIDS patients in need.

Around the same time a new organization got its start: Season of Concern. Its initial goal was similar to that of the Make-A-Wish foundation in that it helped actors dying of AIDS accomplish their last wishes. In early 1988 the two organizations merged into one and began working to raise money for direct care of actors and crew living with HIV/AIDS in Chicago and the suburbs. Today, the organizations are still their own entities but function a little differently. The Biscotto-Miller fund is the only private grant distributed by the Season of Concern organization to those who need it immediately. The grants are given all year long on a case by case basis to help support the direct needs of patients who struggle to pay for rent, utilities, groceries, medications and other necessities. In 2010, the Biscotto-Miller grants distributed more than \$16,000 to individuals of the theater community.

Although Season of Concern only supports Chicago residents, it is similar to Broadway's Equity Fights AIDS which has its actors jingling red buckets at patrons each night following performances during the holiday season. Season of

Concern works all year long and generally only solicits money from patrons one night per run of a show, as a courtesy to the patrons who may not be able to afford a donation. Chicago boasts a big variety of little theaters and companies, which works to Season of Concern's advantage in that they are able to raise a large sum of money in little bits at a time. When larger companies like Broadway in Chicago sponsor them (even if only for one night) the result is a huge boost in funding. Through the diversity of theater types in the city, Season of Concern is able to evenly distribute fundraising throughout the fiscal year. At the end of the year, Season of Concern adds up their earnings and redirects that money into AIDS-related services.

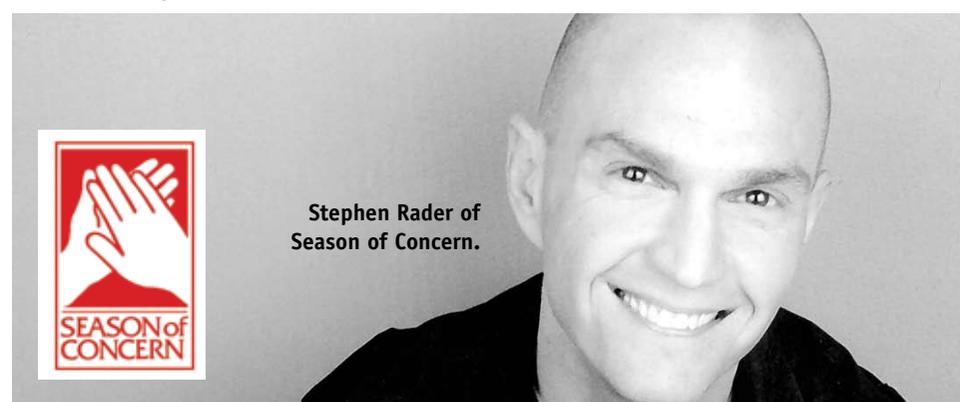
In addition to helping individual patients with their needs, Season of Concern is partnered with several other charity groups in Chicago. The downtown headquarters for Season of Concern is a shared office space with The Actors Fund, a national organization designed to help anyone in the entertainment industry in need. Season of Concern donates a large chunk of money at the end of each fundraising year to the 130-year-old Actors Fund. This past year alone Season of Concern was able to donate \$25,000. This is not the only organization being helped out by Season of Concern. In 2010, they donated \$5,000 to the AIDS Legal Council, an important legal group designed to protect the rights of Chicagoans living with HIV/AIDS. Another beneficiary of a \$5,000 grant was Vital Bridges, a Chicago HIV/AIDS direct-care organization. Chicago Women's AIDS Project also received a \$5,000 grant to keep up in their effort to provide support and empowerment to Chicago women living with HIV/AIDS. Season of Concern also provided grants in 2010 for Bonaventure House Chicago, C.A.L.O.R., Edgealliance, Interfaith and the Test Positive Aware Network.

Season of Concern raises money for its various groups through more than just audience polls during performance runs. Some individuals host cabaret shows that benefit Season of Concern, and the organization's website provides donors with the option to send an e-card to their favorite Chicago actor for either opening night,

closing night or to congratulate an award nomination or win. The e-card is an email greeting card that lets the actor know that a donation to Season of Concern has been made in their honor. The Chicago AIDS Walk is another way the Season of Concern administrative team raises awareness and money for those living with HIV/AIDS. Stephen Rader, the executive director of Season of Concern said, "the goal of Season of Concern's fundraising is to always have enough dispensable cash on hand to help out someone who needs it now."

With the Non-Equity Joseph Jefferson Awards right around the corner, spring is an exciting season for Chicago's theater community. Not only is this award season a time to recognize some of the city's best artists, but also a time

This May marks the fourth year of the Larry Sloan Awards, and Season of Concern has something special planned to combine fundraising, recognition and fun for its prestigious award. Season of Concern is replicating an idea used in an Actors Fund event in New York City by securing rights from the Actors Fund and Twentieth Century Fox to host a reading of the classic script *All About Eve*. This Monday, May 23, event will feature some of Chicago's most notable actors, including Hollis Resnik, a Chicago star who regularly appears at the Goodman and Court Theatre. Other notable performers are Larry Yando, Heidi Kettenring, Peggy Roeder and James Vincent Meredith. The Goodman is also lending their Associate Producer Steve Scott to direct. The casting of this one-night only show makes a unique statement about diversity in Chicago theater as this multicultural cast is an obvious difference from the original film.



Stephen Rader of Season of Concern.

to recognize those who help the community fight the effects of HIV/AIDS. Season of Concern hosts an annual ceremony for recipients of their Larry Sloan Awards. Larry Sloan was the first executive director of Season of Concern, and he passed away in 1995 due to AIDS complications. The awards are given in his honor to those who have demonstrated leadership in the community's fight against HIV/AIDS. Past winners include Rondi Reed who appeared in the original production of *August: Osage County* at the Steppenwolf Theatre, and William Peterson of *TVs CSI*. This year's winners are Barry Taylor for the Heritage Award, Karen Bronson for the Advocate Award and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago for the Partnership Award.

"This event shows the web of support in the Chicago theater community," said co-producer Amy Matheny. "It's amazing that all these actors are giving us their valuable time, it shows how much this organization means to them."

There will be tables and drink service during the performance and tickets are priced at \$45 or two for \$80. The *All About Eve* benefit reading will take place on Monday, May 23 at 7 p.m. followed by the 4th Annual Larry Sloan Awards. The show is sponsored by the Windy City Media Group and hosted by The Mayne Stage Theatre at 1328 W. Morse. Tickets are available through the Season of Concern website: <http://www.seasonofconcern.org>.



The NAMES Project 1988 Quilt display at Chicago's old Navy Pier. Photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright

Valle looks back at NAMES Project in Chicago

BY KATE SOSIN

Modesto Tico Valle remembers the moment he first saw the AIDS Memorial Quilt in Washington D.C. It was 1988, and the quilt represented 1,200 people.

"I don't think I have ever cried so hard," he recalled. "The sadness I had, it was overwhelming."

Four years earlier, Valle had come out as gay. Rather than spending those college-age years partying with other gay men, he delivered meals, went to protests and cared for the sick. When the phone rang, he dreaded picking it up because he lived in fear of bad news.

"That was the way of life," he said. "That was the way of life for so many years. Sometimes you didn't even have time to grieve, so if you took that moment, you'd fall apart."

Valle recalls those days matter-of-factly. It's a story he's told many times to the press, especially since taking on the role of CEO at Center on Halsted more than four years ago. He knows the exact dates of important events. When he wants to illustrate how his mother became an LGBT ally, he has anecdotes on hand about how she went from a mother who disliked having a dress-wearing son to a caregiver for HIV-positive men. He also knows where he'd prefer to gloss over personal details that distract from the message he wants his story to send.

For Valle, the AIDS Memorial Quilt speaks that message. It's a message he thinks young people still need to hear because, he says, the fight against AIDS is far from over. More than two decades after AIDS took his father, his partner of 10 years, and so many of his friends, he still fears another epidemic, despite medical advancements.

"I'm still fighting to give people a voice," he said. "And to give people hope."

From the CEO's chair at Center on Halsted, Valle has seen HIV-prevention funding dwindle. He knows that the poor economy has meant that more people struggle to buy HIV medication. He has watched infection rates grow among youth, especially at his own Center, which reported the highest youth infection rates of all state-funded

HIV testing programs last year. And more than that, Valle, who was an activist long before he headed a major organization, remembers how quickly the AIDS pandemic changed the course of his own life irrevocably.

Valle was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in Old Town, the middle child of five. His parents, who did factory work for most of their lives, strived to raise open-minded kids. They had experienced the hardships of growing up poor and of living in the U.S. as people of color, Valle said. They wanted their own children to embrace different types of people because they understood what it meant to be marginalized.

"One of the things my family taught me was not to judge people but to accept them for who they are," he said. "They taught us to be loving human beings."

In 1984, on a visit home from the University of Notre Dame where Valle was a Sophomore in college, Valle's mother confronted him about her gay son. She wasn't talking about Valle, but his younger brother who had been sporting dresses while Valle was away at college.

It was Valle's job to "calm the waters," he said. His mother lamented that his younger brother was not more like him. But Valle told her that there was nothing wrong with his brother, and then he came out himself. She knew already. Valle never had girlfriends, and he took a neighbor girl who was his close friend to prom. Valle's mother had never talked about her suspicion until he came out. She wasn't just worried that her sons were gay, she told him. She was more worried that her sons would get AIDS.

The following year, Valle, who had missed Chicago while away, transferred to DePaul University to finish college. He became an activist upon returning home. AIDS was sweeping the city, and Valle was quickly recruited in the fight against it. He rallied alongside activists like Danny Sotomayor. He brought food to sick friends and walked their dogs.

In 1988, at the urging of NAMES Quilt founder Cleve Jones, Valle traveled to Washington, D.C. to see the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. Jones had told him that he thought if politicians saw it, they would be moved to push for a cure.



Modesto Tico Valle. Photo by Hal Baim

The quilt stunned Valle and changed his life. He immediately set to work on bringing the project to Chicago. The following year, Valle founded the Chicago NAMES Project and brought the quilt for its first Midwest display to Navy Pier. When his father, who has been slow to accept that Valle was gay, saw the quilt, he turned to his son and said, "You need to take this into schools."

Valle agreed. He spent the following years dragging the quilt all over Chicago, packing it into his car and presenting it at lectures. He drafted a national curriculum around the Quilt to teach young people about AIDS.

It was the birth of a new kind of activism for Valle. The quilt was demonstrating that the disease did not discriminate, and the community response was a growing number of prevention and care services.

"The beauty of the quilt ... is that from it, all these organizations were born," Valle said. Valle became involved with the NAMES Project nationally, showcasing the quilt in Chicago and D.C. repeatedly over the years and heading up education efforts around the quilt.

Shortly after Valle had showed his father the quilt, he learned that his father was HIV-positive. His family was shocked. Valle said he wonders if his father didn't struggle with being gay, but he said he didn't know or care how he contracted the virus.

"It doesn't matter how," he said. "It's how we take care of each other." While Valle's family reacted poorly to the news at first, he said, they came around in the end.

When all was said and done, Valle had not only watched his father die. He had lost his partner of 10 years. Both died in the early 1990s. These losses are the ones that Valle is more reluctant to talk about it, those that blur his role as an advocate for others into someone who has experienced loss personally. Here, his recollection of details and dates grows fuzzier. The facts come slower and grow more vague in nature.

In the years that followed the height of the pandemic, Valle watched his community recover. His advocacy work led him to Horizons and then finally to Center on Halsted's first CEO in 2007.

It's a role that has both brought him praise and admonishment, as the Center under his care has faced accusations that it's out of touch with the LGBT community's marginalized populations—youth, the homeless, people of color, and transgender people. But Valle remains steadfast in his belief that "people vote with their feet," and that people from all walks rely on Center services.

Despite his title of CEO, Valle said he still identifies as an activist. "I'm still fighting to give people a voice," he said. "And to give people hope."

However, he isn't stopping there. Valle said he is considering a run for public office one day, perhaps as state representative or alderman. He thinks that a new wave of LGBT activism is sweeping the country, and he wants to be part of it. "That's what the AIDS epidemic taught me," he said, a tone of both celebration and sadness in his voice. "If you want equality, you can never sleep."

VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY
TIMES

VOL. 26 No. 32, May 11, 2011

*The combined forces of Windy City Times,
founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper,
founded May 1987.*

PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Tracy Baim

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky

MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Davis

BUSINESS MANAGER Meghan Streit

DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA Jean Albright

ART DIRECTOR Kirk Williamson

SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGERS: Terri Klinsky, Amy

Matheny, Kirk Williamson, Dave Ouano, Kirk Smid

PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT Cynthia Holmes

NIGHTSPOTS MANAGING EDITOR Kirk Williamson

NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863

SENIOR WRITERS Bob Roehr, Rex Wockner, Marie

J. Kuda, David Byrne, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen,

Yasmin Nair, Emmanuel Garcia

THEATER EDITOR Scott C. Morgan

CINEMA WRITER Richard Knight, Jr.

BOOKS WRITER Yasmin Nair

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS

Mary Shen Barnidge, Steve Warren, Lawrence

Ferber, Mel Ferrand, Jerry Nunn,

Alicia Wilson, Jonathan Abarbanel

COLUMNISTS/WRITERS: Yvonne Zipter, Jorjet

Harper, Lee Lynch, Steve Starr, Lisa Keen, Charlsie

Dewey, Michael Knipp, Lisa Klein, Joe Erbenraut,

Carrie Maxwell, Billy Masters, Kate Sosin, Chuck

Colbert, Micki Leventhal, Sarah Toce, Erica Demar-

est, Dana Rudolph, Sally Parsons

SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS Kat Fitzgerald, Mel

Ferrand, Hal Baim, Steve Starr, Emmanuel Garcia,

Dave Ouano

CIRCULATION

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright

DISTRIBUTION: Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Renee,

Sue and Victor

WEB HOSTING: LoveYourWebsite.com (lead pro-

grammer: Martie Marro)

Copyright 2011 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to *Windy City Times* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Windy City Times*. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in *Windy City Times* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, *Windy City Times* cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609

e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

radio: WindyCityQueercast.com

video: QueerTVNetwork.com

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,
5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, IL 60640
U.S.A.
(MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Windy City Times Deadline every Wednesday.
Nightspots Deadline Wednesday prior to street date.

OUT! Resource Guide ONLINE

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

www.WindyCityQueercast.com

www.QueerTVNetwork.com

"Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, Windy City was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses." —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.

 Community Marketing, Inc.

JOAN
LIPKINRemembering
Doric Wilson

To the pantheon of LGBT heroes, we must add playwright and activist Doric Wilson who died May 7 at his home in Manhattan at age 72. It is a collective and personal loss. Doric was a friend and role model to me.

Doric's list of accomplishments is long. He was the first playwright in residence at Greenwich Village's legendary Caffe Cino beginning with his comedy, *And He Made A Her* in 1961. He would go on to write many popular gay themed plays including *Pretty People*, *Babel Babel Little Tower*, *Now She Dances!* *In Absence*, *Turnabout*, *The West Street Gang*, *A Perfect Relationship* and *Forever*.

Both an active participant and keen observer of history, Doric was present on June 28, 1969 at the eruption of the riots at the Stonewall Inn, generally recognized as the beginning of the gay rights movement and is featured in the 2010 documentary film *Stonewall Uprising*. Previously involved in the civil right and anti war movements, he became active in the Gay Activist Alliance and raised money for LGBT causes as a celebrity guest bartender.

However, some of his most significant activism took place in the theater. In 1974, Doric, Billy Blackwell, Peter del Valle and John McSpadden, formed TOSOS (The Other Side of Silence), the

first professional LGBT company in the country. The company produced new plays and revivals by Noel Coward, Joe Orton, Terrence McNally and Lanford Wilson. among others.

I had the good fortunate to meet Doric a few years ago when the Association for Theater in Higher Education, an organization with which I have a long time affiliation had the sense to give him a Lifetime Achievement Award. We hung out in the book display afterwards and I told him a little about the work that my theater had done, including directing and producing *Some of My Best Friends Are...*, the first piece of LGBT theater to be done in St. Louis. "Missouri, huh?," he chuckled. That sealed the deal. We would be friends. The tall, handsome, radical gay activist and playwright had not always lived in New York City, although it seemed tailor made for him. He was born in Los Angeles and raised on his grandfather's ranch in the Pacific Northwest.

Doric asked me to be on the honorary board of directors of his company, TOSOS and I gave them a little money. Mostly, I would go to their readings or productions when I was in town and pick his brain about LGBT history and his perspective. What I found most thrilling was his clarity about his own identity and disavowal of social acceptance. Last spring at a company dinner in the West Village, when I talked with him about my work on *The State of Marriage*, a performance piece about same sex marriage, he was blasé. "Well, of course they shouldn't be telling us what to do but who cares what they think, anyway? Who needs marriage?"

It was this utter unapologetic stance that kept me coming back for more. I knew I was in the presence of an iconoclastic thinker—and whether I agreed with everything he had to say or not, I wanted to hear it.

The last time I saw Doric was this winter, fol-

lowing Jill Johnston's memorial service at Judson Church. I rushed over to attend a staged reading of his early play, *The West Side Gang*. He was delighted with the reading and regaled us afterwards with stories of how the original production had been staged in a gay bar.

In 2001, Doric resurrected his historic company, TOSOS, with directors Mark Finley and Barry Childs. In time, lesbian playwright Kathleen Warnock would join this artistic team to present staged readings as well as full productions of LGBT work. He was very proud of them, saying to me, "Aren't they smart? Aren't they really something?"

In poor health in recent years, he must have known how important a talented and committed succession team would be. I, for one, am impressed that he put a lesbian at the helm, and a very talented one.

I RSVP'd to Doric last week to say I was in New York and would be at the latest TOSOS staged reading. When I didn't hear back from him, I decided to go anyway Saturday night. It was puzzling not to see him and Kathleen Warnock told me they learned he had died when he didn't show up.

I feel a deep depth of gratitude for his courage and mentorship to a whole generation of young artists. And I am very sad. I had seen *The Normal Heart* the night before and was eager to get his take on the production and on Larry Kramer's role in the early days of the AIDS epidemic. Doric would have had a front row seat to those days. And he would have been happy to pull up an opinion.

R.I.P., Doric Wilson.

Joan Lipkin is the artistic director of That Uppity Theatre Company. Her work is most recently featured in the new anthology, *Out & Allied*.

REV. IRENE
MONROEMarriage-equality
film comes to Harlem

African-American LGBTQ communities have always existed in Harlem—and they have resided in Harlem since this former Dutch enclave became the United States' Black mecca in the 1920s.

The visibility of Harlem's LGBTQ communities for the most part was forced to be on the "down low." However, gay Harlem, nonetheless, showcased its inimitable style with rent parties, speakeasies, sex circuses, and buffet flats as places to engage in protected same-gender milieux.

Also, let's not forget Harlem's notorious gay balls. During the 1920s in Harlem, the renowned Savoy Ballroom and the Rockland Palace hosted drag ball extravaganzas with prizes awarded for the best costumes. Harlem Renaissance writer, Langston Hughes, depicted the balls as "spectacles of color." George Chauncey, author of *Gay New York*, wrote that during this period "perhaps nowhere were more men willing to venture out in public in drag than in Harlem."

As expected, however, African-American ministers railed against these communities as they do now.

Given Harlem churches' spiritual and sexual stronghold over its churchgoing communities it continues, to its detriment, to police the entire community concerning queer sexualities. Any healthy dialogue about God's love and unquestioning acceptance of LGBTQ people is kept on lockdown, maintaining a "politic of silence" not only about LGBTQ sexualities but also about the

various expressions of Black sexuality as part and parcel on the continuum of human sexuality.

While most Harlem churches won't touch LGBTQ issues, various gay-friendly arts venues in Harlem will. The Harlem Stage is one of them, allowing a safe and uncensored space for Black queer expressions.

On April 26 the Harlem Stage premiered the new documentary short film, "Marriage Equality: Byron Rushing and the Fight for Fairness," allowing the largest public dialogue on same-sex marriage by LGBTQ people of color in the country. New York native and award-winning African American gay filmmaker Thomas Allen Harris directs the film, sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign.

Harris tackles the continued hot-button issue in both the African-American and LGBTQ communities—civil rights: Black vs. gay. Harris dismantles the false dichotomy of this ongoing debate by connecting the Black civil-rights movement of 1960s with the same-sex marriage-equality movement of today. He focuses on African American Democratic Massachusetts State Rep. Byron Rushing, a veteran of the civil-rights movement who, in the past decade, took the campaign for same-sex marriage into African-American communities here in Massachusetts.

Rushing was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1982, and he was an original sponsor of the gay rights bill and the chief sponsor of the law to end discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in public schools. Rushing was also one of the leaders in the constitutional convention to maintain same-sex marriage in Massachusetts.

He is one of the legislative pioneers in Massachusetts' Black community to address the topic of LGBTQ rights as a civil-rights issue. Harris' film, the first of this genre, will keep the topic from slipping into the "down low" culture of Black life.

"Like the civil-rights movement did 50 years ago, the marriage equality movement is dominating politics in the current national land-

scape," Harris said. "I hope the event at Harlem Stage will launch a movement across the country where community members use the film as a way to discuss marriage and other issues of political and social importance, especially as it relates to communities of color."

With more than 200 LGBTQ people of color and allies in attendance at the Harlem Stage, renowned gay African-American Washington Post writer Jonathan Capehart moderated the forum on same-sex marriage with a panel that included entrepreneur and activist Russell Simmons, Cathy Marino-Thomas, board president of Marriage Equality New York, Human Rights Campaign board member David Wilson, other advocate and religious leaders, and myself.

Whereas many African-American ministers will continue to holdfast to the erroneous belief that the battle for same-sex marriage is not a civil rights issue, there are, however, many African-American elected officials like Rushing who know same-sex marriage is a civil-rights issue.

For example, during a June 12, 2007 Capitol Hill ceremony commemorating the 40th anniversary of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck down anti-miscegenation laws—and sponsored by several straight and LGBTQ civil rights organizations across the country—the Legal Defense & Educational Fund of the NAACP released an historic statement that best explains why the LGBTQ struggle for same-sex marriage is indeed a civil rights struggle: "It is undeniable that the experience of African Americans differs in many important ways from that of gay men and lesbians; among other things, the legacy of slavery and segregation is profound. But differences in historical experiences should not preclude the application of constitutional provisions to gay men and lesbians who are denied the right to marry the person of their choice."

LGBTQ Harlemites have resigned themselves to have dialogues on same-sex marriage. And if not in their Black churches then in various public gay-friendly arts venues throughout Harlem.

In so doing, they will be standing on their brothers and sisters of the Harlem Renaissance.

GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo by Joan Marcus

BY THE 'BOOK'

The Book of Mormon is just one production with LGBT themes that garnered a Tony nod recently. Read more below.

MOVIES

'Maid' to order.
Page 26.

Still from the movie Bridesmaids



MUSIC

Avenue 'Q.'
Page 30.

PR photo of Nicole Reynolds



SPORTS

To be Frank...
Page 38.

Photo of Frank Kisner
by Ross Forman



SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Tony! Tony! Tony!

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

The 2011 Tony Award nominations for excellence in Broadway theater were announced May 3.

With 14 nominations, the leader of the pack is the irreverent (and expletive-filled) new musical *The Book of Mormon*, by South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone and *Avenue Q* composer Robert Lopez. It's one of the few shows to have opened on Broadway to near-unanimous critical raves.

Following close behind with 12 nominations is the closed show *The Scottsboro Boys*, the final musical co-written by theater greats John Kander and Fred Ebb (*Cabaret*, Chicago). The *Scottsboro Boys* controversially used the theatrical form of a minstrel show to comment on the true-life story of nine Black teenagers who were wrongly accused of rape in 1931.

However, for Chicago theater boosters, there were a few notable local inclusions (and exclusions) in the mix.

The big news is that Chicago's Lookingglass Theatre Company was named the recipient of the 2011 Regional Theatre Tony Award, and it's no surprise why. Many of Lookingglass Theatre's acclaimed productions—like *Argonautika*, *The Arabian Nights* and *Lookingglass Alice*—have since gone on to thrive in major regional theaters around the country, no doubt charming the many voters from the American Theatre Critics Association who help to decide on the award each year.

Lookingglass is famed for its ensemble consisting of circus-trained actors and writers who are adept at adapting literary works to the stage. Although Friends TV star David Schwimmer is the company's most famous ensemble member, it's probably director/playwright Mary Zimmerman who has helped bring the most acclaim to Lookingglass Theatre. Zimmerman's 1998 adaptation

of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* later played on Broadway in 2002 and has been produced by other major regional theaters.

Lookingglass brings the number of Tony Award-winning Windy City regional companies to five (the others being Steppenwolf Theatre, Goodman Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater and Chicago Shakespeare Theater). It's a feat unmatched by any other U.S. city, so wear this Chicago win with pride.

In the play direction category, Steppenwolf Theatre ensemble member Anna D. Shapiro is a nominee for Stephen Adly Guirgis' *The Motherfucker with the Hat*, which notably features the Hollywood star power of Chris Rock and Bobby Cannavale in the cast.

On the flip side, Chicago favorite David Cromer did not get a nomination for his direction of another star-studded revival, John Guare's *The House of Blue Leaves*, starring Ben Stiller, Edie Falco and Jennifer Jason Leigh.

Closer to the Windy City Media Group family is the news that Windy City Queercast guest host Colman Domingo is Tony-nominated for Best Featured Actor in a Play for his multiple roles in *The Scottsboro Boys*. Domingo's past credits include *Passing Strange* (now in a regional staging by Bailiwick Chicago) and the LOGO/MTV Network series *The Big Gay Sketch Show*.

Visit <http://www.tonyawards.com> for a full list of nominees and more information about the Tony Awards broadcast on CBS-TV at 7 p.m. Sunday, June 12. Neil Patrick Harris is slated to host.

Arthur Laurents dead at 93

Legendary gay playwright, director and screenwriter Arthur Laurents passed away May 5 at the age of 93.

In theater circles, Laurents is most famous for providing the books to the monumental 1950s



Colman Domingo, an occasional Windy City Queercast guest host, has snagged a Tony nomination.

musicals *West Side Story* and *Gypsy*, plus his Tony Award-winning direction on the original 1983 production of *La Cage aux Folles*.

It was at the urging of Tom Hatcher, Laurents' long-term partner who died in 2006, that Laurents achieved some late-life success in directing Broadway revivals of *Gypsy* in 2008 starring Patti LuPone (mending a long-time feud between the irascible playwright and the famed Broadway diva) and *West Side Story* in 2009 (where the Sharks sang new lyrics in Spanish before this device was eventually dropped).

Laurentis is also famed for helping to discover

Barbra Streisand in her first Broadway show *I Can Get it For You Wholesale* in 1962, later working with the star with his screenplay for the 1973 film *The Way We Were*. Laurents also worked with legendary director Alfred Hitchcock on the 1948 film *Rope*.

However, for anyone who wants an insight to Laurents' life as an openly gay man working in the entertainment industry, be sure to read his gossip-filled books *Original Story By* and *Mainly On Directing*. Laurents goes out of his way to settle scores, and he is unabashed with his pride as an openly gay man.

Victory Gardens' new artistic director

Victory Gardens Theater recently announced that playwright and director Chay Yew is to be the company's new artistic director. Yew succeeds retiring Victory Gardens artistic director Dennis Zacek, who held the post for the past 34 years.

No doubt the news will be a disappointment for those who wanted longtime Victory Gardens associate artistic director Sandy Shinner to get the position. But with Yew's appointment it's clear that Victory Gardens' board wants to inject some new blood into the esteemed institution famed for its roster of resident playwrights.

As a director, Yew has directed world premieres of works by Jose Rivera, Naomi Iizuka, Julia Cho, Alec Mapa and more. Among Yew's many award-winning honors are the GLAAD Media Award and the Asian Pacific Gays and Friends' Community Visibility Award.

White Noise closing early

If you've been dragging your feet to see *White Noise*, the world premiere musical about white supremacist songwriters finding mainstream success, hurry now to see it. The production is closing two weeks early, May 15, at the Royal George Theatre.

Please send theater news and other related tidbits to scottishplayscott@yahoo.com and Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com.



Peter Pan. Photo by Ed Krieger

THEATER REVIEW

Peter Pan

Playwright: James M. Barrie

At: Chicago Tribune

Freedom Center, 650 W. Chicago

Tickets: 1- 888-772-6849;

http://www.peterpantheshow.com; \$76-\$173

Runs through: June 19

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

There are two famous scores for musical versions of Peter Pan, one by Leonard Bernstein and one by Mark Charlap and Jule Styne. I wondered which one this new, multi-media musical production would use. The answer is neither. This Peter Pan is *not* a musical, but the original 1904 play with an orchestral score. It's Peter Pan pretty much as James M. Barrie wrote it, meaning it's on the talky and long side considering the family audience at which this show is pitched. The integrity of the treatment reminds one that Peter Pan really is for adults as much as for children when it's not boiled down or Broadway-ized. The somewhat-dark spirit of the work remains intact.

The gimmick this time is that it's presented in-the-round in a circus tent, allowing the use of 360-degree animated visuals projected on enormous screens surrounding the audience. You fly through the landmarks of London, dive under water in the Neverland lagoon and sink into Neverland's undulating Avatar-like jungle, all to the pre-recorded symphonic accompaniment of Benjamin Wallfisch's expansive music, reminiscent (in a good way) of John Williams. The peaked tent allows flying much higher than usual, with up to five people airborne at once, but it's not so different from flying you've seen before.

There are a few alterations and interpolations that are neither radical nor new, such as using a live actor as Tinkerbell rather than a ball of light (Barrie wrote no dialog for Tink), using puppets for Nana (the dog) and the ticking crocodile, and including Barrie's later addition of a final scene in which Peter returns to the now-grown-up Wendy, reminding us that youth is—in Barrie's words—"innocent and heartless." More problematic are two dance additions in which John and Michael swim with mermaids (acrobats using Spanish Cords) and Tiger Lily teases Peter with an acrobatic dance. As this production is not at all a musical, both dances stick out like sore thumbs, adding minutes to the running time without adding value.

So, ultimately, the question is whether a handful of spectacular animated visuals and some extra-high flying are sufficient to justify the enormous complexity and expense of the production, and the high ticket prices. (Take a look above.) I don't think they are. A dialogue-driven play is not easily compatible with a circus tent presentation. In this setting and with this technology, Peter Pan wants to be more fanciful and surprising than it is, but the play restricts it. The athletic, attractive and charming cast is not to be faulted. Anglo-Irish actor Ciaran Joyce is in command as Peter supported by Evelyn Hoskins as Wendy and Steven Pacey elegantly underplaying the double roll of Mr. Darling and Capt. Hook.

CRITICS' PICKS

The Copperhead, City Lit Theatre, through May 15. A bit o' history comes at you in this once-famous 1918 drama, bridging the gap between melodrama and realism. It's about an Illinois family and the Civil War, which plenty of folks still remembered in 1918. JA.

Erratica, American Demigods at Second Stage Theatre, through May 14. When you've got the ghost of Christopher Marlowe playing cupid, the sexual reawakening of a stuffy English-lit professor suddenly acquires additional—uh, vigor in Reina Hardy's smart little sleeper of a romantic comedy. MSB

Passing Strange, Bailiwick Chicago at Chicago Center for the Performing Arts, through May 29. JC Brooks and The Uptown Sound really rock it out in this funny and touching coming-of-age story of an African-American artist who leaves the conformity of suburban Los Angeles to find inspiration in Amsterdam and Berlin. SCM

Sex With Strangers, Steppenwolf Theatre, through May 15. Writers in love—preferably from another century—are a safe study for the classroom, but Stephen Louis Grush and Sally Murphy make Laura Eason's tale of the blogger and the novelist sizzle with immediacy. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Soul Samarai

Playwright: Qui Nguyen

At: InFusion Theatre Company

at Theatre Wit, 1229 W. Belmont

Phone: 773-975-8150; \$25

Runs through: June 5

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

We enter the black-box auditorium to find ourselves surrounded by tagger-art, flow-morphic videos and scratchy hip-hop music, the last courtesy of stageside DJ "Dishwasha." The first words our questing heroine utters are, "*Moshimoshi*, motherfuckers." And with the addition of that final epithet, anticipation of Charlie-Chan accents, rec room karate or other chop-socky giggles ceases, to be replaced by the existential gloom of your favorite graphic novel.

For starters, playwright Qui Nguyen's locale is not some idyllic pastoral kingdom, but a post-apocalyptic New York City now controlled by feudal lords. Oh, hidden conclave exist within the boundaries—zenmaster Leroy's dojo on the Lower East Side, a Christian-soldier monastery in the Brownsville district—but the Longtooth thugs who, five years earlier, kidnapped the patrician Sally December were the servants of the evil masked Boss 2K, shogun of Brooklyn (or "brook-NAM" as one character dubs it). Racked with guilt, bookish Dewdrop vowed to avenge her lost lesbian lover. Accompanied by wigger

sidekick, Cert (as, he boasts, in "Death CERTIFICATE"), our intrepid pilgrim ventures into the stygian realms where even those pure in heart risk falling prey to primitive bloodlust.

Indeed, what does it mean that Nguyen's cruelest archvillains ("Hey, let's go make some war," carols Boss 2K) were privileged idealists or white-collar drones before succumbing to the intoxication of power? Do the deaths of Dewdrop's comrades signify the failure of education, religion and filial loyalty to provide her the answers she seeks? Is her odyssey an allegory of ambivalence over the influence exerted upon her by the arrogantly dogmatic Sally? And do the changes in the latter comprise a case study of altruism gone sour?

An abundance of psychological complexity, then, lies beneath the seemingly endless array of adrenaline-pumping martial-arts spectacle—duels by flashlight, the "obligatory training montage" and the most original sword-cane stunt in Chicago stage combat history—choreographed by Geoff Coates for an athletic cast led by Christine Lin as the valiant Dewdrop. The real stars of the show, however, are the technical team of David Ferguson, Liviu Pasare, Charles Cooper, Miles Polaski and Joy Dennis, who together create a dramatic universe steeped in metaphor and mystery, where violence is not a mere enhancement but instead seamlessly integrated into their story's very foundations. *Arigato gozaimasu*, muh-fuhs!



Christine Lin (left) and Amy Dellagiarino in Soul Samarai. Photo by Anthony LaPenna

THEATER REVIEW

The Original Grease

Playwright: Jim Jacobs Warren Casey

At: American Theatre Company, 1909 W. Byron

Phone: 773-409-4125; \$45-\$50

Runs through: June 26

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The easiest way to recreate a historical period is to focus on the extremes. This principle dictates that "teen culture" be defined by archetypes existing to this day, among them, the children of poor, parochial, disenfranchised, blue-collar immigrant families. The romanticizing of these economically-disadvantaged adolescents—in the 1950s, dubbed "greasers," as much for their unbarbered lanolin-heavy hair as for their predestined industrial-sector careers—into sensitive "rebels" was, in large part, motivated by the guilt that dogged those who escaped this ghetto, along with its teenage pregnancies (before legal abortion), school dropouts (before GEDs), and its gang-loyalty defeatism. Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey were artist/songwriters in 1970 when they wrote their homage to former high school chums whose peak years were already in decline, calling upon memories at once fond and relieved—contradictions leading to distortions growing more pronounced over time, as generational distance rendered

it increasingly safe for "the way THEY were" to become "the way WE were."

American Theatre Company purports to restore the gritty homegrown edge to Jacobs and Casey's one-hit wonder, and to a substantial degree, makes good on its promise (almost 700 reverently, bringing the show's running time to just under three hours). But don't park your Suspension of Disbelief yet. The Burger Palace Boys may speak in grunts and the Pink Ladies in yaaaps, but they sing in the dulcet tones of health-conscious warblers with throats untouched by tobacco, two-dollar wine, or deep-fried anything. Jim Corti's dance choreography likewise leans more heavily on standard musical-comedy formations as the show progresses.

Fifty years after the fact, a little triplet-time and Duane Eddy guitar go a long way, however. Though ATC's Grease may not be as museum-grade "original" as the title proclaims, it nevertheless invokes a catalogue of nostalgic references—civil-defense drills, Lucky Strike cigarettes, Clearasil, Polk Brothers, LOTS of street names—sufficient to engulf oldsters in warm fuzzies, as well as a compendium of potty-mouth sass from grandma's day to amuse fans of the greasers' Jersey Shore descendants. Malcolm Ruhl's orchestral and vocal arrangements capture the sound of the pre-British Invasion era, but the songs that come off most authentically are the ones rooted in a cappella doo-wop harmonies, reflecting the DIY expressions of an age before Walkmen, earbuds and iPods.

The Night Ministry invites you to join us in experiencing a delight by

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2011 AT 8 P.M.
At the United Center, 1901 West Madison Street, Chicago

Tickets are \$115, \$135, or \$155, depending on seat location.

All proceeds benefit

THE NIGHT MINISTRY®**SEATING IS LIMITED, ACT NOW!**

To purchase tickets, contact Barbara Sipe at (773) 506-6029 or Barbara@thenightministry.org

VISIT US AT WWW.THENIGHTMINISTRY.ORG



The King and I.
Photo by Johnny Knight

DOUBLE REVIEW

Performing Tonight: Liza Minnelli's Daughter

Created by Mary Fons

At: The Neo-Futurists, 5153 N. Ashland

Phone: 773-275-5255; \$10-\$15

Runs through: June 4

The King and I

Score: Richard Rodgers;

Book and lyrics: Oscar Hammerstein II

At: Porchlight Music Theatre

at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont

Phone: 773-327-5252; \$38

Runs through: June 5

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Performer and writer Mary Fons looks amazingly like award-winning star and gay icon Liza Minnelli. So it's only natural that she would want to capitalize on that association in a funny and introspective world-premiere called *Performing Tonight: Liza Minnelli's Daughter* for the Neo-Futurists.

Not entirely an impersonation act, *Performing Tonight* is more of a thorough and comical analysis of how a Midwesterner like Fons has become obsessed with Minnelli and the unlikely parallels between the lives of the two performers. Throughout the show, Fons attempts to bolster her argument that she is the biological daughter of Minnelli (but it's clear that she's more kin in spirit and longing for superstardom).

To aid in her journey, Fons is assisted by her two fey black-clad Fosse-style dancer-sidekicks Donnell Williams and Joseph Schupbach, who also take on other characters' lives and wryly comment on this whole strange show which is part loving homage and E! True Hollywood Story-style examination of Minnelli and her ardent fan who claims to be family.

Director Sonja Moser coordinates the parade of Minnelli songs and fashions wonderfully, though there are some slow moments (the imagined conversation between Fons and her "grandmother" Judy Garland on drug abuse is a particularly weak scene—omitting the fact that MGM pushed uppers and downers on a juvenile Garland throughout her film career).

Performing Tonight no doubt fits in the line of Neo-Futurists meta-styled shows that examine a topic or subject through an odd and very personal angle. But *Performing Tonight* stands out with its fun and razzle-dazzle sheen to this examination of celebrity and struggling performers who long for some of that same stardust to rub off.

Meanwhile, it would be remiss not to mark L. Walter Stearns' farewell production from his position of artistic director for Porchlight Music Theatre. Before he assumes his full-time duties with the Mercury Theatre, Stearns is helming Porchlight's handsome first take on a Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, *The King and I*.

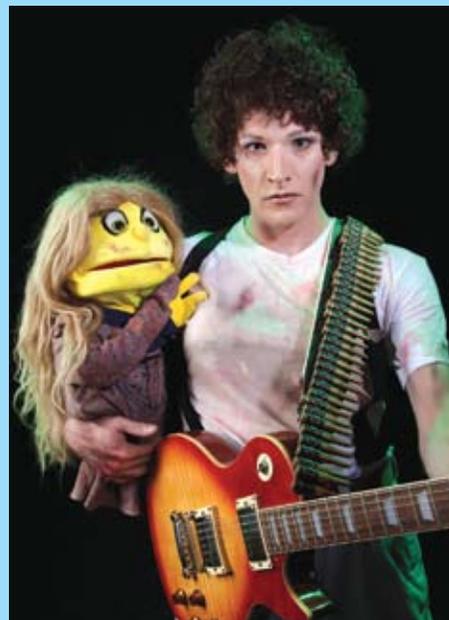
Now this 1951 musical can't really escape its original leading man Yul Brynner, or its very Western imperialistic views. But once again Stearns uses the intimacy of a Porchlight pro-

duction to his advantage to focus on the personal relationships in the script and allowing them to shine brighter than usual.

Wayne Hu is a commanding King with a booming baritone voice, contrasting nicely with the stubborn Anna Leonowens of Brianna Borger (perhaps a tad too young with a belting sound to her voice for my personal tastes, but still very effective).

Also making the production a musically impeccable production is the dual grand piano work of conductor Eugene Dizon and pianist Allison Hendrix. This *King and I* is a solid and strong Porchlight farewell from Stearns.

SPOTLIGHT



If you're still kicking yourself for missing the Halsted Street engagements of *Alien Queen*, then thank your lucky stars that The Scooty & JoJo Show has teamed up with Metro to bring back the comic book concert spectacle that combined the film *Alien* with the music of queer favorites Queen. This one-night special performance of *Alien Queen: The Concert* also features extra performances by Brilliant Pebbles, DJ Reagonomix and Mystery Key. *Alien Queen: The Concert* is at Metro, 3730 N. Clark. Doors open at 8 p.m. with a start time of 9 p.m. Friday, May 13. Tickets are \$16-\$30. Call 773-549-4140 or visit <http://www.metrochicago.com>. Photo caption: Ryan Lanning as Ridley with Newt in "Alien Queen." Photo by Timmy Samuel

"A GRAND NEVERLAND!"
—Chicago Sun-Times

threesixty° presents J M BARRIE'S

PETER PAN

"An ambitious hybrid of live theatre, aerial arts, puppetry and supremely advanced computer generated visuals."
—Hedy Weiss, Chicago Sun-Times

"ENCHANTING! A state of the art spectacle."
—Barbara Vitello, Daily Herald

"A beautiful strikingly intimate tent, surrounded by upscale environs. Physically skilled actors fly against a massive fully live, 360 degree back drop that takes the family audience on an exciting trip through the London skies."

**WHEN PETER PAN IS UP IN THE AIR
YOU CAN SEE MOUTHS FALLING OPEN ALL AROUND."**
—Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune

888-PPANTIX • BROADWAY IN CHICAGO.COM
TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT ALL BROADWAY IN CHICAGO BOX OFFICES AND THROUGH TICKETMASTER
threesixty° theatre • Tribune Freedom Center North, 650 W. Chicago Ave
Groups 15+: 312-977-1710 • www.peterpantheshow.com

WATCH A VIDEO PREVIEW
SCAN ME!

Matthew Morrison on his career, Elton and public sex

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Matthew Morrison doesn't mind being the gayest straight man you know. The 32-year-old actor recently called being a member of a gay boy band in the 2003 film *Marci X* the "gayest thing" he's done in his career.

That's saying a lot—he's currently starring on *Glee*, playing hot choir-club head Mr. Schuester. His part on the musical-comedy hybrid follows years of Broadway work on shows like *Hairspray* and *The Light in the Piazza*, which earned him a Tony nomination. Now, after becoming a big deal and an even bigger teacher crush, Morrison ventures out on his own with a solo debut and summer tour.

We spoke recently with the man behind Mr. Schuester, chatting about some racy photos involving a gay twin and his "chicken," the *Glee* girl he'd date, and the importance of the show's father-son relationship.

Windy City Times: Because of your musical-theater work and *Glee* role, do people often think you're gay?

Matthew Morrison: I've been singing and dancing since I've been in fifth grade so I've gotten that quite a bit in my life.

WCT: Being one of few straight guys in theater, how did you use that to your advantage when it came to the ladies?

MM: The odds for me were definitely in my favor, being surrounded by beautiful female dancers and being the person that they could actually, you know, be with. (Laughs) So it was a great time in my life. I really took advantage of

it for a while in my younger days on Broadway, but aside from all that bullshit, I love being on the gayest show on TV. It doesn't bother me; I wear it as a badge of honor to be accepted and loved in that community.

WCT: There are several steamy pics of you on the Internet, including ones of you in polka-dot underwear with a plushy little poof on the private.

MM: Yeah, that's my chicken. (Laughs) It was for a thing called *Broadway Bares*, a big fundraiser. And if I knew at the time how much flack I would get for those photos I probably would've never done it, but it raised a lot of money that night for AIDS.

WCT: There's another picture out there of you—or someone that looks like you—getting cozy and smoochy with Anderson Cooper's alleged boyfriend.

MM: That's not me. It looks very much like me.

WCT: It does, indeed. Your doppelganger?

MM: Yeah, I know. Thank you for making out with Anderson Cooper's boyfriend, whomever you are. (Laughs) But his ears are different, and he doesn't have the mole on the side of his face like I do.

WCT: Do rumors bother you?

MM: They used to, but it happens so much now that you have to shut it off. I know my own truth, and that's what you have to live with.

WCT: Which *Glee* girl would you have dated in high school?

MM: I would've been the Quinn guy. I actually pretty much did date Quinn in high school. I



dated the homecoming queen and she was very religious, and I went to church with her all the time.

WCT: Was your girlfriend in the celibacy club, too?

MM: Uh, well, we weren't having sex, so yes. (Laughs)

WCT: Speaking of sex, let's talk about the first single from your new album, "Summer Rain."

MM: Yes! Sex on a roof.

WCT: Tell me how the song came about.

MM: It's a true story—me and my ex-girlfriend, who was actually a Broadway dancer (laughs), on the roof of my apartment. It was a beautiful summer day, and then it just started raining—and the moment just kind of took us and we just, you know.

This was in New York City, where there could

be 1,000 people watching you on top of the roof, but we didn't care. A lot of people think that song is just about having sex on a roof, but for me it was being young and in New York and in love. If the 16-year-old version of myself would've known I would've had a moment like that in my life, I would've been very happy. (Laughs)

WCT: I bet. There's a line that references Lover's Lane. What's the last thing you bought from there?

MM: Bought from Lover's Lane? Is that a store?

WCT: Oh, yeah. Lover's Lane is a sex shop.

MM: (Laughs) Ohh, no! Oh my God. That's crazy. I didn't even know that. I wrote it as, in the '50s you go to lovers' lane, kind of like going to a lookout mountain in your car and making out and stuff.

Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy night!

MONDAY,
MAY 23, 2011

"all about eve"

Also presenting the

4TH ANNUAL LARRY SLOAN AWARDS:

Heritage Award: Barry Taylor

Advocate Award: Karen Bronson

Partnership Award: AIDS Foundation of Chicago

An All-Star reading
to benefit
SEASON OF CONCERN



featuring

Hollis Resnik
as Margo Channing

and an All-Star cast including
Larry Yando, Heidi Kettenring,
James Vincent Meredith, Peggy Roeder,
BJ Jones, Ross Lehman, Maura Kidwell,
Jon Steinhagen & Sandra Delgado



MAYNE STAGE
1328 West Morse Ave., Chicago

Tickets: \$45 / Two for \$80 online @ SeasonofConcern.org

media sponsor

WINDY CITY
MEDIA
GROUP

WCT: Oops. Guess it has two meanings now. [Laughs]

MM: [Laughs] I guess so! I'm glad I know that little tidbit of knowledge.

WCT: You know, public sex might be trickier for you now.

MM: Yeah—I still do it. Who cares! [Laughs] No, I can't do anything in public anymore. Honestly, I'm really happy that I—I feel bad for some of the kids on my show. I mean, they're not kids, they're all in their 20s, but I really got to live out my 20s in New York and do whatever I wanted and not be in the public eye, and now I'm such a homebody that I don't really have any problem with that anymore. I feel lucky that I really got to experience my life like that.

WCT: Glee has tackled important issues like gay bullying, drinking, teen sex and so on. Which theme are you most proud of?

MM: I absolutely love the relationship between Kurt and his father. It's so beautiful and it's something that really needs to be seen. I mean, I don't know how that works being a gay teen—do you have the birds and the bees talk like other people? I thought that was so well handled. Straight guys who watch the show now and do have kids who might be gay, I think they'll be more equipped to handle that.

WCT: Did you know any Kurts in school?

MM: Oh yeah, for sure. There were a lot of Kurts. I mean, I went to a performing arts high school. I had a college roommate, and I was the first person he came out to. I went to NYU and we lived in this dorm; there were five of us living together and one of them came out to me and just kind of felt comfortable. And I've always been very open and accepting of that because I know how hard that is, and I'm a good listener. To this day, there are a lot of Kurts in my life.

WCT: Some critics have been harsh on the second season of Glee. How do you feel about that?

MM: I love this season. There are always going to be naysayers out there, but it's hard to follow

what we did the first season. I actually thought we were going to be in trouble, but this season has been really strong.

WCT: So, is Lea Michele as much a diva as people say?

MM: No, no. She's very committed to her job and she's a very talented girl, and I think sometimes that gets misconstrued.

WCT: Have you ever been hot for teacher?

MM: For sure. I can't think of her name, but she was a Spanish teacher. I don't know if it had something to do with the language, but that's kind of hot.

WCT: For the Elton John mash-up, how did you decide on "Rocket Man" and "Mona Lisas and Mad Hatters?"

MM: I wanted to pay homage to him and do some of his songs. It actually took a while to pick which ones, but I knew I wanted to mash two together. I was thinking "Tiny Dancer." The only one Elton didn't want to do was "Crocodile Rock."

These two just kind of mesh. They don't when you think about it, but it turned out to be this epic seven-minute song. He was just so game for anything and such a pleasure to work with. He's such a student of music, and every Tuesday he buys every new artist who comes out. He knows what he's doing, and it was just cool to be in [the studio] with him.

WCT: Will you bring your Glee raps to the album?

MM: No, no, no. I try to get far away from Glee on this album. Coming from Glee, I thought it was important that I write a lot of my own material. I didn't want to do just covers, because that would've been very Glee-esque, and to be taken seriously as an artist I had to write my own songs.

WCT: Tell me about the tour.

MM: I'm going on a world tour with my album, and I'm really looking forward to it. There's no better way to see the world then to go out and perform and sing.

WCT: Back in the day, you used to be in a boy band called LMNT. Now that you're solo, how does it compare?

MM: Well, that was just a bad year of my life—and it was in the late '90s, when you couldn't throw a stick and not hit someone in a boy band. It was so manufactured and so cheesy and, as a performer, when you're on stage and you're embarrassed to be up there, you know you're doing the wrong thing. But honestly, that year I was in the boy band, I learned a lot about the recording process, and it really helped me in where I am today—in Glee and in doing this solo project. It was a good experience in that sense.

WCT: Now, Jane Lynch...

MM: Who's she? [Laughs]

WCT: What's she like off-camera?

MM: She's actually my best friend on the show. I'm the closest to her out of everyone. We just have an amazing relationship. I love her to death. I love her wife. And she's the kindest woman you'll ever meet.

WCT: You wouldn't know, based on her Glee character, Sue Sylvester.

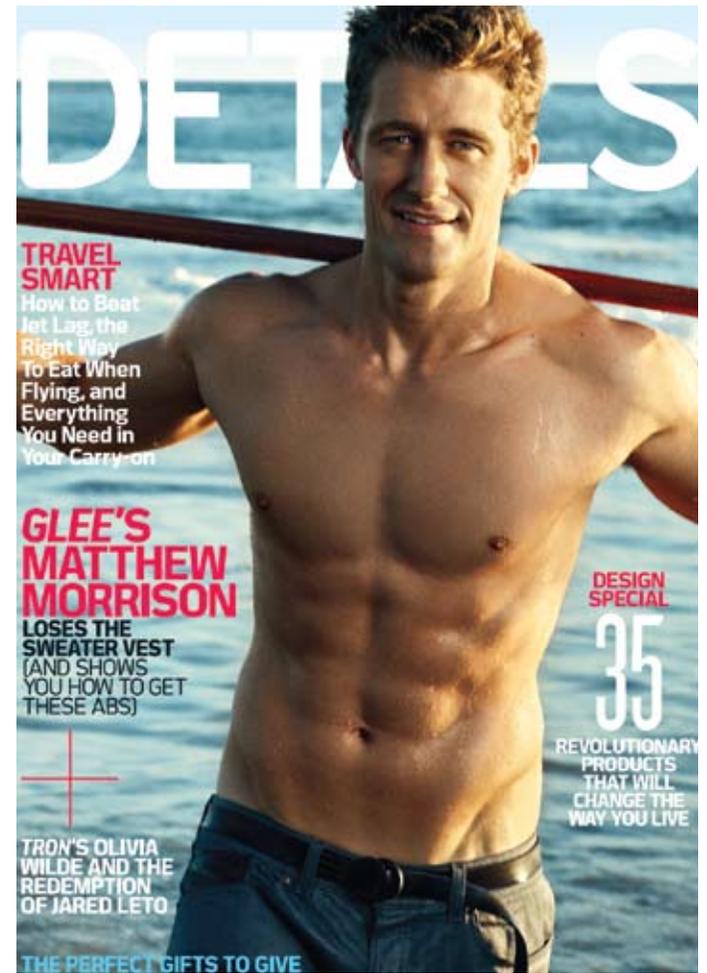
MM: Exactly!

WCT: Have her hair jibes caused you personal pain?

MM: [Laughs] No, not at all. Everyone gets hampered on the show; no one

gets away unscathed. I actually made fun of her hair at some point. Lea's nose gets made fun of; Cory [Monteith] gets made fun of because he can't dance. Everyone gets ragged on—it's just part of being on Glee.

Matthew Morrison will headline the Goodman Theatre gala May 21. See <http://www.goodmantheatre.org>.



Matthew Morrison on a recent Details cover.



JOFFREY BALLET
CHICAGO

ASHLEY C. WHEATER
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**“Sensual, magnificently driven
portrait of blistering romance”**
– *Chicago Tribune*



RISING STARS

World premiere work from some of the hottest stars in dance!

MAY 4-15, 2011

BELLS COMMISSIONED BY
BRUCE SAGAN AND BETTE CERF HILL

WOVEN DREAMS PRODUCTION SPONSOR
JEROME ROBBINS FOUNDATION

WOVEN DREAMS PRODUCTION SPONSOR
ORLI AND BILL STALEY

THIS PROGRAM IS PARTIALLY SUPPORTED BY A GRANT FROM CITY ARTS, THE ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL, A STATE AGENCY, AND THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

AUDITORIUM THEATRE
of ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

2010 - 2011 SEASON SPONSORS




OFFICIAL & EXCLUSIVE AIRLINE



OFFICIAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDER



LIVE MUSIC SPONSOR



OFFICIAL PROVIDER OF REHABILITATION, FITNESS AND PERFORMANCE

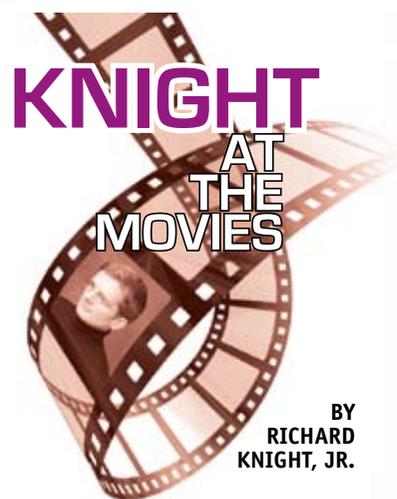


MAKE-UP PROVIDED BY



800.982.2787
JOFFREY.ORG/RISINGSTARS

Joffrey Dancers Anastacia Holden & Dylan Gutierrez | Photo by Herbert Migdoll



Bridesmaids; Laurents tribute; film notes

The versatile Kristen Wiig, the Saturday Night Live regular who has a way of making the inane and just plain weird hysterically funny, has worked hard at becoming a movie star. With **Bridesmaids**, which she co-wrote with former Groundlings improv pal Annie Mumolo as a vehicle for herself, she's finally made it.

It's lovely to see this fearless funny lady front and center at last and, although the movie ambles about and follows a familiar, class-conscious template jazzed up with gross-out scenes (thanks, no doubt, to the participation of producer Judd Apatow), there's a lot to like (and laugh at) here.

Wiig plays Annie, the socioeconomic underdog trying to hang on to her implied rights as the best friend and maid of honor to Lillian (Maya Rudolph), whose surprise engagement finds her stepping up in the world economically. Annie

is quickly pitted against the wealthy, passive-aggressive Helen (Rose Byrne), a Martha Stewart-like perfectionist who has taken on Lillian and her wedding as a new pet project and keeps besting Annie. Then there are the other quirky bridesmaids (with Melissa McCarthy a standout, playing a female version of Zach Galifianakis); Jon Hamm as a gorgeous egotist and Annie's "friend with benefits;" out actor Matt Lucas as the roommate from hell; and Chris O'Dowd as a sweet Irish cop who takes a shine to her. Jill Clayburgh, in her last screen role, plays Annie's mother, a woman with exceedingly tacky taste. Plot-wise, the movie's really not much more than a female cross between *Meet the Parents* and *The Hangover*.

The familiar formula, however, is enlivened by the gender change, as it's still somewhat refreshing to see women on the screen acting like their male counterparts: frankly expressing their sexual desires, trash-talking, objectifying the men, etc. The comedic timing and the lively camaraderie between Wiig and her female costars help make even the gross-out sequences hilarious in the hands of these deft comedienne. Moreover, the charming relationship between Wiig and O'Dowd adds a sexy sweetness to the formula that lingers beyond the fade-out of *Bridesmaids* and helps elevate the movie beyond its male frat comedy counterparts.

The passing of theatrical legend **Arthur Laurents** at 93 last week was noted with effusive tributes from all corners of the media. What else to expect for the man who penned *West Side Story*, *Gypsy*, *Anyone Can Whistle*, *Hallelujah, Baby!*, *Time of the Cuckoo* and a host of other theatrical landmarks, and directed an equal number? Many of his theatrical successes went on to become well-regarded, award-winning movies and, although he didn't end up scripting them, Laurents also had a respectable career writing for Hollywood.

So, for filmgoers, too, Laurents's passing is equally noteworthy. He adapted *Rope* (1948), with its coded queer subtext for Hitchcock (starring then-lover Farley Granger); adapted *Anastasia* (1956), which brought Ingrid Bergman back to America; scripted *The Way We Were* (1973) for Barbra Streisand (after bringing her Broadway success at the outset of her career when he cast her in 1962's *I Can Get It For You Wholesale*, which he directed).

For a generation of gay men, this old-fashioned, unlikely romance between a fearless, independent Jewish girl and her blonde, fairytale WASP prince (Robert Redford, inspired casting) was the perfect movie upon which to project unrealized gay fantasies. Laurents later penned 1977's *The Turning Point* as an homage to his longtime friend, ballerina Nora Kaye; it starred Anne Bancroft and Shirley MacLaine.

Laurents also leaves a legacy of sexual bravery. He was as famous throughout his career for being openly, unapologetically gay (as he and his lover of 50 years, Tom Hatcher, are prominently featured in the fascinating tome *The Gay Metropolis*, Charles Kaiser's history of New York gay life). Laurents was also known for his feisty, forthright opinions (his interview segments in *The Celluloid Closet* being a prime example). A new film version of *Gypsy* starring Streisand, which Laurents had reportedly signed off on, is in the works. Upon his death, Streisand commented in part, "He created people you care about because he cared about people."

Film notes:

—**Dyke Delicious**, the popular, long-running monthly social/screening event series co-presented by Black Cat Productions and Reeling, returns on Saturday, May 14, with *May Shorts* at Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark. The line-up includes nine lesbian-themed shorts and trailers that run the gamut from "hilarious to heart-felt." A bevy of the filmmakers will be on hand

for the screening. As usual with *Dyke Delicious*, a social hour starts the evening at 7 p.m. with the screenings beginning at 8 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$10. (Advance RSVP suggested; email dykedelicious@chicagofilmmakers.org, call 773-293-1447 or visit <http://www.chicagofilmmakers.org>)

—Help queer cinema in Chicago: Nathan Adloff, a Chicago-based out writer-director is preparing to shoot **Nate & Margaret**, his second LGBT-themed feature here in Chicago. The movie, which will utilize a batch of local LGBT hangouts, is a comedy with autobiographical overtones (co-written by Adloff and Justin D.M. Palmer) that will star Natalie Robinson (*Crystal* from the "Roseanne" show) and Tyler Ross, along with several local Chicago actors. Shooting commences in early June but like pretty much all indie cinema (and queer-themed movies, especially), the film needs help in the funding department. To that end, the producers have created a Kickstarter campaign that ends May 17. Fans of queer cinema can help support the film for as little as \$10. See <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/n8r/nate-and-margaret>.

—Save the date: **TriKone Chicago**, a group created for Chicago-based LGBT Asians in association with the Columbia College Center for Asian Arts and Media, and the Kalish-Mumbai International Queer Film Festival are jointly presenting **KalaKranti 2011**, a festival of queer South Asian short films Saturday, June 4, from 12-5 p.m., at Columbia College Film Row Center, 1104 S. Wabash, 8th Floor. The lineup for the free event features 12 experimental, documentary and fiction shorts from "the subcontinent and the diaspora, exploring a broad range of ideas, images and identities." See <http://www.trikonechicago.org>.

Check out my archived reviews at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com> or <http://www.knightatthemovies.com>. Readers can leave feedback at the latter website.

CULTURE CLUB

"A RANT of the Highest Magnitude" — TOM WINTS

AMERICAN BLUES THEATER
in association with STEPHEN EICH - DON FOSTER
STUART DITSKY/ADAM DITSKY presents

RANTOUL AND DIE

BY MARK ROBERTS
DIRECTED BY ERIN QUIGLEY

REGIONAL PREMIERE

at VICTORY GARDENS THEATER
call (773) 871-3000
or visit americanbluestheater.com

lifeline
THEATRE
Big Stories, Up Close

A world premiere adaptation of Richard Adams'

WATERSHIP DOWN

Thursday-Sunday through June 19, 2011
Call 773-761-4477 or visit www.lifelinetheatre.com

Heartbreak House

By GEORGE BERNARD SHAW
Directed by WILLIAM BROWN
Now Playing at 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe

"UNQUESTIONABLY BRILLIANT."

"BE AMAZED AND AMUSED."
— CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

"VISUALLY GORGEOUS AND EXCEEDINGLY ARTICULATE PRODUCTION."
— CHICAGO TRIBUNE

TICKETS START AT \$45
ORDER TODAY!

WRITERSTHEATRE.ORG
847-242-6000

Corporate Sponsor
MAGNETAR CAPITAL

Foundation Support
THE ELIZABETH F. CHERRY FOUNDATION

WT
WRITERS' THEATRE

ABOUT FACE THEATRE & the Woyzeck PROJECT THE HYPOCRITES PRESENT:

ABOUT FACE THEATRE
15TH ANNIVERSARY

a world premiere by SYLVAN OSWALD

Pony

Directed by About Face Artistic Director
BONNIE METZGAR

the-hypocrites

WOYZECK adapted & directed by SEAN GRANEY
by GEORG BÜCHNER

LOVE. OBSESSION. DEATH.
APRIL 10 – MAY 22 | Chopin Theatre | 1543 W. Division

\$28 Tickets per show or \$48 for both!
visit thewoyzeckproject.com or call 866.811.4111

Major funding for
THE WOYZECK PROJECT
provided by:



Additional funding for
WOYZECK provided by:



EXTENDED BY POPULAR DEMAND THRU JUNE 12

Dixie's Tupperware Party

For tickets, call the Royal George Box Office 312-988-9000
or Ticketmaster at 800-982-2787. Tickets also available at
Ticketmaster.com and all Ticketmaster retail locations.
For groups of 10 or more, call 312-423-6612

CONTAINS ADULT CONTENT

www.dixiestupperwareparty.com

New 'Leatherman' book: The story of sexual renegade/businessman Chuck Renslow

CHICAGO — A prominent Chicago gay activist and entrepreneur is the subject of an in-depth biography, *Leatherman: The Legend of Chuck Renslow*, by journalists and authors Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen. The book contains more than 300 images, including murals and drawings by Dom "Etienne" Orejudos, posters for International Mr. Leather (IML), and photos from the Gold Coast, Pride Parades, IML contests, physique magazines and more.

The book is published by Prairie Avenue Productions, 414 pages, \$24.99 black and white (ISBN 1-46109602-2), \$79.99 color (1-46111908-1). It is available on Amazon.com. People can search for the title or link: <http://www.tinyurl.com/renslow> or <http://tinyurl.com/RenslowColor>. It will also be available from Women & Children First and Unabridged bookstores.

Living as an openly gay man in 1950s Chicago was no easy task. For Chuck Renslow, that was only his first of many bold moves. Just out of high school he began what was to become a six-decade empire, starting more than two dozen businesses in Chicago, as well as a few in other cities. He has owned bars, discos, photo studios, health clubs, bathhouses, gay magazines and newspapers, hotels, restaurants, and bookstores. Throughout it all he dealt with Mafia and police payoffs, anti-gay political policies, harassment from censors, and even controversy within the gay community.

In the mid-1950s, after having a portrait and then cheesecake studio, Renslow began experimenting with beefcake photography and began

Kris Studio. With his longtime lover, the artist Dom Orejudos aka Etienne and Stephen, at his side, Renslow created Kris Studio a leader in male physique photography, resulting in such magazines as *Triumph*, *Mars* and *The Rawhide Male*, producing thousands of erotic images as well as several films.

In 1959 Renslow took over the Gold Coast Show Lounge and transformed it into one of the most lowdown libidinous gay leather bars in the world. With Etienne's murals adorning the walls, a leather/Western/uniform dress code for patrons, and a dark Pit that featured all sorts of goings-on, the Gold Coast set the standard for raunchy kink and gay sexual liberation. It was the birthplace of motorcycle clubs and sex groups, but above all a place for people to meet, connect, and explore themselves and their sexuality.

The Gold Coast was also the birthplace of the first leather contest, which in the span of a few short years evolved beyond the bar's capacity and became International Mr. Leather in 1979. More than three decades later, it continues to be one of the world's most popular gay events.

Renslow was also one of the pioneers in taking a bathhouse beyond merely the borders of a mere sex club. Man's Country became something truly unforgettable in the 1970s - a sex-and-entertainment complex with a variety of rooms, shops, and a Music Hall that attracted top names touring in the "K-Y circuit," from Sally Rand to Wayland Flowers to Rusty Warren and Charles Pierce.

Renslow was a dynamic force in Chicago politics under mayors starting with Richard J. Daley, and he ran as a delegate for Sen. Ted Kennedy's 1980 presidential run. He danced with another man at a 1977 inaugural ball for Jimmy Carter. Renslow helped protest against unfair policies, fought censorship and entrapment, and battled Anita Bryant. He even served as a field contact for the pioneering work at the Kinsey Institute, as well as performing sexual acts for Kinsey researchers. He knew entertainment celebrities from Marlene Dietrich to Rudolf Nureyev, from Divine to Grace Jones, and from Sylvester to Quentin Crisp. In their heyday Chuck Renslow's annual White Parties were celebrations beyond compare.

When Chicago's gay community faced the loss of its newspaper, Renslow bailed out and ran *GayLife*. He gave the community a voice at the critical time when AIDS was first discovered and began its devastation of the community. Though Renslow had always donated to gay causes, with the emergence of the epidemic he drastically increased his contributions and helped host major benefits for AIDS organizations.

Seeing such loss and the frequent erasure of these vibrant lives, Renslow knew he had to do something more. His co-founding of the Leather Archives & Museum (with Tony DeBlase) and his tireless devotion to the institution have helped ensure that the voices of so many who have lived and loved and ultimately passed can be heard for ages to come by all those who wish to listen. It was but another way to serve his community.

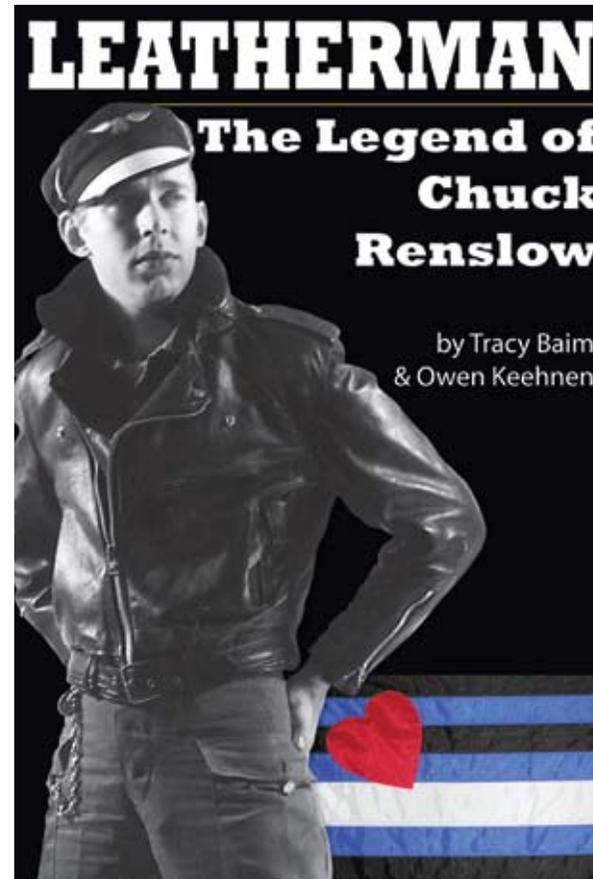
Through it all Renslow has also been Daddy of the Family, a unique created group of lovers, tricks, and

friends who were bound by sex and oftentimes love and by a goal of providing comfort and support to one another.

Unique and controversial, Chuck Renslow is still doing his work and activism, more than six decades after he first opened shop as a photographer.

Authors Tracy Baim and Owen Keehnen uncover the truths and myths of a living legend in this compelling new biography about the man many know, but few understand.

Senior editors of the book are William B. Kelley and Jorjet Harper. Book design is by Kirk Williamson.



HUBBARD STREET DANCE CHICAGO
Glenn Edgerton, Artistic Director

YOU WILL WANT TO SEE THIS.

May 19-22
at the Harris Theater
in Millennium Park

"doesn't blink at danger"
—Washington Post

312-850-9744
hubbardstreetdance.com

Kevin Shannon in 27'52" by Jiri Kylián. Photo by Todd Rosenberg.

COMING UP:

ENSEMBLE DAL NIENTE PRESENTS: VOODOO
5/14 @ 7:30

TRIBUTE TO TIN PAN ALLEY
5/15 @ 7:30

RICO! SANTANA TRIBUTE
5/19 @ 8:00

CHICAGO RED LINE
5/21 @ 8:00
5/22 @ 7:00

ALL ABOUT EVE FEATURING HOLLIS RESNIK
5/23 @ 7:00

THIRD COAST PERCUSSION
5/24 @ 8:00

JOHNNY FLYNN & THE SUSSEX WIT
5/25 @ 8:30

FUNKADESI
5/28 @ 10:00

THIS WEEK:

STEVE GIBONS' GYPSY RHYTHM PROJECT & BULBUL ENSEMBLE
5/12 @ 7:30

CHICAGO AFRO LATIN JAZZ ENSEMBLE
5/13 @ 9:00

ALFONSO PONTICELLI FLAMENCO PROJECT
5/20 @ 9:00

TICKETS & FULL SCHEDULE @ MAYNESTAGE.COM OR 866-468-3401

98.7wfmt
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING!
EVERY SUNDAY @ 11 AM

ACT ONE
CHICAGO'S NORTH SIDE GASTROPUB

GRAB DINNER & DRINKS BEFORE THE SHOW • WWW.ACTONEPUB.COM
1328 W. MORSE AVE. IN CHICAGO • \$5 VALET PARKING ON SHOW NIGHTS

GREAT FOOD. GREAT SHOWS. ONE PLACE.



Kent Bartram on Frank Lloyd Wright and old Hollywood

BY TULLY SATRE

It is four o'clock on a Sunday afternoon in Oak Park as clusters of tourists gather in the shade of an overpowering ginkgo tree central to the courtyard of Frank Lloyd Wright's home and studio.

"Wright believed that a house should reflect the sight, not the other way around," said Kent Bartram, referring to the courtyard centerpiece. Bartram explains that when Wright first purchased the property in 1889, the ginkgo tree was a mere four inches in diameter. Freshly certified as an "interpreter," Bartram was about to guide a small group of eager tourists through the renovated home and studio of one of America's most famous and beloved architects.

For Bartram, working in Wright's Oak Park home and studio is just another facet to his already diverse palette of accomplishments, many of which stem from his love for Chicago. Put simply: Bartram is an amateur historian and genealogist who loves architecture and old Hollywood.

Bartram began his work with the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust as a volunteer. Volunteers founded the trust in 1974. They have since then restored Wright's home and studio as closely as possible to its original state in 1909. As a volunteer, Bartram learned the ins and outs of the extensive and on-going restoration of the property. In spring 2008, after three years working as a volunteer, Bartram was hired to re-vamp the trust's volunteer program.

Initially, the trust was apprehensive to hire Bartram, as his resume did not exhibit the standard criteria for the job; the trust was used to people in the role who were professional volunteer managers. However, they soon realized that much of what Bartram did outside of his professional life contained the necessary elements.

Bartram is no stranger when it comes to organizing and utilizing a team of volunteers. After studying journalism and business at the

University of Kentucky, Bartram moved to Chicago permanently in 1986. He first settled in the Lakeview neighborhood where he and his partner, Terry Wittenberg, lived together. The two met through Wittenberg's involvement with the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus where they had mutual friends. They relocated to the Southport neighborhood just west of Lakeview. It was in Southport that Bartram became involved with "Southport Neighbors" (a local resident's organization) where he managed the implementation of a neighborhood recycling program prior to the city's blue bag initiative.

Bartram and Wittenberg were an integral part of the resurgence of Southport Street after opening a Mail Boxes, Etc. store. "We were ranked number three internationally," recalled Bartram noting that the company helped boost business in the area. They sold the store in 2004.

Boosting business is among Bartram's many talents. In 1995, Bartram was a part of a team of people spearheaded by Tracy Baim and Kevin Boyer in founding the Chicago Area Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce. The chamber was set up to promote economic opportunities for the LGBT community.

While living in Southport, Bartram and Wittenberg were also key figures in an attempt to preserve the historic character of the neighborhood when 50-foot-tall concrete apartment buildings began to replace the classic wooden frame houses. Bartram's love for preserving a historic aesthetic and the need to make an actual living lead he and his partner to create Cottage Industries, LLC. Together, they would do adaptive reuse of architecturally beautiful properties, such as houses or flats. "The goal of each project was to envision what each property actually looked like when it was built," Bartram explained, "and to modernize it without stripping it of its character...even put its character back if possible."

However, Cottage Industries suffered as a result of the economic decline with homeowners cutting back on unnecessary costs, which often meant forfeiting restoring aesthetic antiquities. But Bartram found another way of celebrating his love for architecture. In a lot of ways, Bartram's work with the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust was a logical progression that grew from his previous experiences as a business and community leader in Chicago. This is what ultimately led the trust to hire and upgrade Bar-

tram's position on staff and to bring new life to its volunteer program, a project he has treated similarly to his restoration of old properties. "I have been taking a very solid strong volunteer program here and bringing it into this century with new technology and quality control... [I am] making it more modern."

It may seem like Bartram's life is scattered, but really he sees everything as a whole.

Bartram describes himself as a dilettante of architecture, beauty and design. His fascination for lost aesthetics and history stems from his esoteric connection to a generation before his time. In many ways, Bartram is a man plucked from the film reel of a 1940s Los Angeles' Hollywood and stuck in the 21st-century yearning to return to an era long gone.



Kent Bartram. Photo by Tully Satre

"When I open up Vanity Fair, I want to be the person who writes those stories about old Hollywood that reveal things that nobody ever knew was actually happening behind-the-scenes," Bartram said.

Seven years ago, Bartram began writing a book. What started as a small research project has turned into a comprehensive biography on Little Edie Beale, the late first cousin of Jackie Kennedy Onassis. Currently titled "Staunch Character," writing the biography has brought him back to the Hollywood he knows best.

His fascination with Little Edie was not homegrown; in fact, it was not until much later in his life that he even came across her. "Friends at

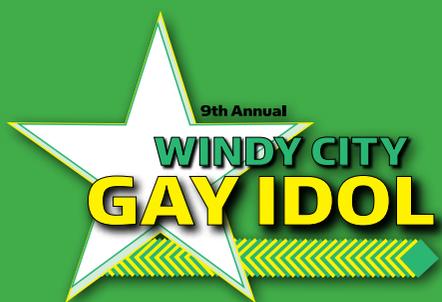
dinner parties would talk about this movie about Jackie's cousin and Aunt and it was this crazy film [called Grey Gardens]." Bartram recalled seeing segments of the documentary but remembers thinking it was weird and never being able to finish it. After watching it through, Bartram wondered, "Why is no one talking about Edie Beale? People on the street should be talking about her, she is so fantastic!" Bartram started digging only to find that there was very little information available. "Gay men were keeping her alive...small cliques of urban gay men...primarily on the East Coast."

Bartram began piecing together Little Edie's story and soon connected with her family. It was through Edie's family that he met Michael Sucsy who had been developing a movie treatment of the actual story of Grey Gardens and the Beales. Sucsy and Bartram joined forces and Bartram became the official research consultant for the new Grey Gardens. The movie was picked up by HBO and released in April 2009 starring Drew Barrymore and Jessica Lange. It was Bartram's first big break.

"It was serendipitous. It was like being dropped on the moon. It was utterly fascinating," Bartram said of his involvement with Grey Gardens. Bartram noted that there were several people interested in Little Edie's life at the time, "Different groups of people were trying to get Edie to market." At the same time that he and Sucsy were working on the film, Doug Wright was adapting the story of Grey Gardens as a musical, completely independent from Sucsy and Bartram's project. Wright's musical went to Broadway and starred Christine Ebersole as Little Edie.

Bartram said he would be hard pressed to believe any gay man wouldn't fall in love with Edie after seeing the film. He describes Edie's fashion sense as innate, saying that she was in so many ways magnetic. Edie was able to start a trend without little effort or care for what society thought. Bartram argues that Edie's influence was similar to the chic sway her cousin held for the unmistakable garments of her time, which were not as simple as fashion or clothes. "Jackie was more like Edie than she [Jackie] would want you to know," Bartram said, fascinated with the broader historical implications and pop influence Edie's story holds. "The big thing that I learned is that pop culture does not happen by accident."

Bartram has one more year with the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust before he will commit full time to finishing writing "Staunch Character," which he expects will take another two years before it is completed. In the meantime, he and his partner are preparing to move back into the city, to the Andersonville neighborhood, to be closer to friends.



Let's all congratulate Jennie and TJ, who beat out six other contestants at Windy City Gay Idol May 8 at T's, 5024 N. Clark St. These two vibrant vocalists will advance to the semi-finals at Sidetrack on Sat., June 4.

Photos by Kirk Williamson. See more photos at facebook.com/windycitygayidol.

Check out this week's Nightspots for photos of Windy City Gay Idol at Jackhammer.

Miller is the presenting sponsor of Windy City Gay Idol.



NUNN ON ONE: MUSIC

Singer Donna De Lory stretches her talents

BY JERRY NUNN

"Who's That Girl?" It's Donna De Lory, who toured for years with Madonna and continues to stretch her legs as an artist with new albums, is now focusing on the world of yoga. De Lory has finally found sanctuary in California, where she chatted about her new life.

Windy City Times: Hello, Donna. After all this time are you still talking to Madonna?

Donna De Lory: Yes; over the last few years we have been hanging out when we work together. I have my family and she has her family. She was always telling me what it was like before and now that I have mine we just look at each other and know. We can relate now.

WCT: Is it hard having a career and a baby?

DD: Of course; I have an 8-year-old, too. I took her on two Madonna tours—crazy—when she was 1 and 3. I was doing my own shows on my days off, which was completely insane. We got through it and have a lot of amazing memories. My daughter is funny: "I have been on three world tours with Madonna!" I tell her it's two, not three.

WCT: Would you like your kids to go into the music business?

DD: Only if it is their heart and soul. The little one, Lucianna, who is two, is so musical. I had to fight her from playing my keyboard today. She literally pushes me off and has to play.

WCT: What a little diva!

DD: She has to sing, too. Sometimes when I put her down to bed she sings the lullabies back to me. It's incredible.

WCT: You have always had a musical family.

DD: Yes, I have. My dad was a producer at

Capitol Records when I was growing up. He was already a legendary keyboard player because he has played on so many rock 'n roll records. We would work on films and we would go to the premieres. We always be backstage and being around musicians. I was shy when I was little but my sister started singing professionally when she was a kid. She sang on The Carpenters song "Sing" so I grew up behind her wanting to sing. I started when I was 8 but was painfully shy. At a very young age I knew that's what I wanted to do.

WCT: Were you influenced by musicians when you were younger?

DD: I was getting into artists like Pat Benatar and The Go-Go's so it made me want to be like them. With Blondie and Chrissie Hynde there were enough really cool rocking singers that I wanted to do that whole thing.

WCT: Did you go to school for it?

DD: Not really; my high school was pretty mediocre with the arts. They gave all the parts in school to people that would never get opportunities like the ones I had growing up. I had to really fight for things. My mother died a week after my 16th birthday and I moved to Nashville with my dad because he was producing records there. I changed from wanting to be Pat Benatar to a country singer. At night I would go dance at this place called The Warehouse.

WCT: I know that place. It was one of the first bars I went to in Nashville.

DD: It was the only gay club in town back then. I would be the only girl there. No one would bother me and I could dance. I needed it. My brother wound up going there later and it was his place to hang out.



Donna De Lory.

WCT: Is your brother gay?

DD: Yes; he moved from Nashville to West Hollywood. He works at a restaurant and his own music. He writes totally different music than me. He calls it boy-band R&B.

WCT: So tell me more about your journey as a musician.

DD: After Nashville, I moved back to L.A. and used my skill of singing. I would go to every studio and drop off my demo tape. I would sit on the couch and wait for the producer to walk out. I would do my spiel and try to get hired. With my dance experience it all came together when I auditioned for Madonna. I got that tour and it was a huge thing, opening my eyes to performing for the world and not just in the studios.

WCT: That must have been amazing.

DD: It was. I really grew up with her. She was like a big sister that I wanted to be like. I realized I was a performer. I got to work on that aspect of myself for many years working for her but in that time I started developing as an artist. My first release was in Japan from the band Berlin when they wanted to do a side project.

After that I started shopping myself as an artist.

WCT: You have really evolved since then.

DD: It took a while. I eventually got away from my label because I was into world music and they were not into it at all. I started my own label in the late nineties, then I was able to release my record. I went on my own tour and did the whole Ani Difranco thing and sold my records. This was a huge shift for me because I grew up thinking I had to get signed to a huge company. There was always such pressure to have a huge hit right off the bat.

WCT: The music business is just set up like that.

DD: It is. So—flash forward—I started my own company and met a cellist, Cameron Stone, who was my musical partner for a long time. This when I made my record, Bliss. There are electronic beats but also eclectic and classical styles. The whole Madonna, Belinda Carlisle thing was not happening for me. I got more into yoga and spiritual studies. I was able to release a record of mantras that did really well in the yoga market. It is a huge community. I eventually did an album called Sanctuary.

WCT: Now you have remix album out.

DD: I wanted to release this record because I was getting back into dancing. Since I am not into partying I started going to trance dance classes. It is going into a studio and it is free form and no alcohol. The place I was going was an old rehearsal room for Fred Astaire. The music was so powerful and tribal. It reminded me of dancing all night at The Warehouse. I was inspired and wanted to make more of that music.

CONTEST: Win an autographed copy of Remixes: Donna De Lory by writing click2win@windycitymediagroup.com and explaining what makes you her biggest fan. For more information visit <http://www.donnadelory.com> and purchase her albums at iTunes and Amazon.com.

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
Athenaeum Box Office
or
Ticketmaster.com
800-982-2787**

**ARTISTIC & MUSICAL DIRECTOR
Patrick Sinozich**

**FRI, MAY 20 8PM
SAT, MAY 21
3PM & 8PM
ATHENAEUM THEATRE
2936 N SOUTHPORT | CHICAGO**

**SUN, MAY 22
3PM & 7:30PM
MAYSLAKE
PEABODY ESTATE
1717 W 31ST STREET | OAK BROOK**

**FOR MORE INFO VISIT
CGMC.org**

DIVAS!

**The WOMEN we love!
The ICONS we adore!**

BARBRA, ARETHA, MADONNA, LIZA... AND MORE!

**DIVAS! SHOWCASES CGMC SINGING AND DANCING
THE MOST MEMORABLE FEMALE HITS OF ALL TIME!**

CITY ARTS GRANTS
Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs

**CHICAGO'S
MOST COLORFUL
CHORUS**

**WINDY CITY
MEDIA
GROUP**

Heartbreak House

By **GEORGE BERNARD SHAW**
Directed by **WILLIAM BROWN**

Now Playing at 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe

**"UNQUESTIONABLY
BRILLIANT."**

"BE AMAZED AND AMUSED."
— CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

**"VISUALLY GORGEOUS AND
EXCEEDINGLY ARTICULATE
PRODUCTION."**
— CHICAGO TRIBUNE

TICKETS START AT \$45—ORDER TODAY!

WRITERSTHEATRE.ORG
847-242-6000

Corporate Sponsor
MAGNETAR CAPITAL

Foundation Support
**THE ELIZABETH F.
CHENEY FOUNDATION**

**WT
WRITERS'
THEATRE**

MUSIC

Nicole Reynolds in ALT Q's line-up

BY JOSEPH ERBENTRAUT

In the 11 years that have passed since Chicago's out singer-songwriter Scott Free first embarked upon his ALT Q Music Festival, the event has featured some of the most talented and engaging queer performers in the business. This year's incarnation—taking place Saturday, May 14 at the Old Town School of Folk Music—promises to continue that trend.

Among the 2011 lineup is Pittsburgh, Penn.-born musician Nicole Reynolds, whose music carries a whimsical ease somewhat comparable to the folk stylings of Kimya Dawson.

Windy City Times spoke with Reynolds, whom Free described as "one of those unique artists who I predict will become very big—she was born to be."

Windy City Times: When did you recall having your first inclination of your musical talents?

Nicole Reynolds: I probably had no inclinations I had a musical ear when I was growing up.

Music was just not part of my life at all. I took a trip with one of my uncles when I was 15 to New Orleans and I feel like that was the first connection with music I really had, while listening to some of the jazz music down there at Preservation Hall and watching street performers. I really connected with that.

WCT: And how did you first get into writing songs and performing?

NR: My first album was done before I had ever sang for anybody in public and it was just kind of something I liked to do as a pastime. I never intended to actually perform but a friend of mine heard some of my songs and encouraged me to go to an open mic. The response was really pretty great.

WCT: Did you, or do you still, get stage fright?

NR: Oddly enough, I don't get too nervous, which is really strange because I definitely am nervous most of the time for most things, but playing usually ends up being a really fun experience.



Nicole Reynolds. PR photo

WCT: What has been keeping you busy since your last album, 2009's A Fine Set of Fools, dropped?

NR: When that was finished, I went on a six-month tour across the country and basically lived out of my car. I did that whole trip with my girl-

friend and then we decided to buy a condemned house in New Jersey. This whole past year we've been pretty much building a house. I've been writing here and there but I'm not ready for an album yet.

WCT: You said in a YouTube interview that art and music are what separate us as humans from the animals. Does the current political environment surrounding arts funding inform your music?

NR: It definitely fuels me as an artist to push harder to promote art. It's what got me through certain times in my life and I think it's one of the most important things to have around to inspire other people to utilize it in their lives. I think it's crazy that it's often the first thing that gets cut, but I think as more people speak up about it, it can change.

Visit <http://www.altqfestival.com> for tickets.

Aretha Franklin in Chicago May 19

Legendary singer Aretha Franklin will perform at the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State, on Thursday, May 19, at 8 p.m.

Franklin is one of the most honored artists by the Grammy Awards, with 18 competitive Grammys and two honorary awards. She has 20 number-one singles on the Billboard R&B Singles Chart and two #1 hits on the Billboard Hot 100: "Respect" (1967) and "I Knew You Were Waiting (For Me)" (1987), with George Michael.

Rolling Stone magazine named Franklin number one on its list of the top 100 singers of all time. In 1987, she became the very first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Tickets are \$47.50-\$125, and are available at The Chicago Theatre Box Office, all Ticketmaster outlets; online at <http://www.ticketmaster.com> and <http://thechicagotheatre.com>; and by phone at 800-745-3000.

Pet Shop Boys' CDs out May 17

Astralwerks will release Pet Shop Boys' first-ever double CD live album, *Concrete*, as well as *Battleship Potemkin*, their original music for the film Sergei Eisenstein's classic film, May 17.

Concrete was originally recorded live for Radio 2 at the Mermaid Theatre in London with the BBC Concert Orchestra, and released in the United Kingdom in May 2006. The show features songs Pet Shop Boys had previously recorded with orchestral arrangements, including huge hits, album tracks from their album *Fundamental* and a few surprises, including a song from their musical *Closer To Heaven*.

Battleship Potemkin, composed by Pet Shop Boys members Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe, is performed by the Boys and the Dresden Sinfoniker, conducted by Jonathan Stockhammer. Orchestration is by Torsten Rasch.



MEDIA SPONSORS:
WINDY CITY
TIMES



Join us for a charitable event at the

Chicago Cubs vs. Pittsburgh Pirates game

1:20 p.m., Sept. 4.

\$50 Bleacher
tickets

www.windycitymediagroup.com/WrigleyPride

A portion of the proceeds will benefit the following charities:



In partnership with



HANDS OFF HIV Prevention

By Michael Weinstein, *President, AIDS Healthcare Foundation*



The sexual health of gay men belongs to us. Not to drug companies, who want us to take expensive medication instead of taking precautions, so that they can make another billion dollars. It does not belong to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which is under orders to do HIV prevention, "without promoting homosexuality." It does not belong to the academics.

If we are going to protect our community's health, it is going to have to come from us.

The drug company Gilead wants us to take a \$10,000-per-year pill (Truvada) to prevent HIV, even though their study showed it was only 44% effective under optimal circumstances. The CDC wants us to believe that collecting a group of men in a room for a few sessions of "sharing" is going to have a permanent benefit. Academics write endless papers that have nothing to do with the real world.

Gay men have unsafe sex for a variety of reasons. They love a man and think that having unprotected sex is the best way of showing it. They are too drunk or stoned. There is no condom around. Or, they don't think that their life is important enough to protect.

In the '80s and '90s, safer sex was almost universal. We were so freaked out by watching our friends get sick and die we wouldn't take the chance of getting infected.

So, where are we today? About half of all new infections in the U.S., some 28,000, come from men who have sex with men. More than half of those come from men who are unaware they are infected. So, with half a million men who know they are HIV-positive, only about 12,000 actual new infections happen each year from a man infecting another man. That is too many, but it indicates that most gay men are taking precautions most of the time.

We need a grassroots movement led by young gay men. We need an individual commitment to protect ourselves and our partners. We need to get as close to the heat of the moment—when people are actually making these decisions—as we can get.

So when a drug company tells you that prevention has failed and a pill will protect you, hold on to your wallet. When the CDC tries to prevent sexually transmitted disease without speaking frankly about sex, ignore them.

We ourselves have to reinvent HIV prevention in a new generation's image for our own benefit.



For more information or to send a letter to Gilead CEO John C. Martin,
Please visit nomagicpills.org.





HISTORY/HERSTORY

Dr. Mary Walker, a Civil War surgeon, suffragist and Congressional Medal of Honor winner, was often ridiculed for dressing like a man.

Discover the city through the lens of gender, sexuality and nonconformity at *Out in Chicago*— a groundbreaking exhibition that explores 150 years of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Chicagoans and their quests for self-identity, family, community and political action.

OPENING PREVIEW RECEPTION

FRIDAY, MAY 20 | TICKETS \$75

[WWW.CHICAGOHistory.ORG/OUTINCHICAGO](http://www.chicagohistory.org/outinchicago)

OUT IN CHICAGO

ChicagoHistoryMuseum

Clark Street at North Avenue | 312.642.4600 | www.chicagohistory.org

PRESENTING SPONSORS:

The Elizabeth Morse Charitable Trust

 ELIZABETH MORSE CHARITABLE TRUST

LEAD CORPORATE SPONSOR:

 Northern Trust



GO BEHIND THE SCENES

SCAN THE TAG

WCCQ: Jennifer Beals on the Dalai Lama

Author, speaker, respected leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, His Holiness the Dalai Lama comes to Chicago for two public events July 17-18 at two locations: the UIC Pavilion and the Harris Theatre for Music and Dance. The Theosophical Society in America is presenting both events.

Windy City Queercast's Amy Matheny shares an in-depth conversation with actress /activist Jennifer Beals and president of the Theosophical Society, Tim Boyd, about His Holiness, The Dalai Lama. For more information and tickets, visit <http://www.dalailamachicago.com>. To hear Matheny's entire interview with Beals and Boyd, visit <http://www.windycityqueercast.com> and see Show #416. Pics of (top) Beals and Matheny; and Beals, Matheny and Boyd by Kat Fitzgerald.



PARKVIEW PET SUPPLIES
EST. 1921

5358 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60640

773-561-0001

*Sensible Food
Sensible Prices*



Walks with Zara
DOG WALKERS

This Month's Special:

\$12

per walk

for your 1st month!

Chicago's Premier Dog Walking Service
NOW SERVING EVANSTON

- 30 minute walks
- 15 minute puppy walks
- In-home pet sitting & much more!

Fully Licensed,
Insured & Bonded

Call us today: 773-213-4265

Visit WalksWithZara.com

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP PRESENTS



9th Annual

WINDY CITY GAY IDOL

CHICAGO'S BIGGEST GLBT CONTEST!

THE FINAL OPEN PRELIM!

Scarlet

3320 N. Halsted
MON. MAY 16

8 sign up/9 start
\$5 cover/\$10 to sing

\$100

to the singer with
the most votes!

Top Two Finalists
from Scarlet and
Top Four Finalists
from Roscoe's
advance to Semi-finals!

WILD CARD NIGHT

Roscoe's

3356 N. Halsted
MON. MAY 23

8 sign up/9 start
\$5 cover

A few slots open for new singers!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEMIS

Sidetrack
3349 N. Halsted
SAT. JUNE 4
2 door/3 start

FINALS

Sidetrack
3349 N. Halsted
SAT. JUNE 18
2 door/3 start

GRAND PRIZE AT FINALS:

\$1000 Cash, Trip to Vancouver, theatre/concert tickets & more!
Audience prize: TRIP FOR TWO to Vancouver.
Enter to Win at Semi-finals and Finals!

facebook.com/WindyCityGayIdol

For more, visit windycitymediagroup.com or e-mail cynthia@windycitymediagroup.com

Windy City Media Group includes Windy City Times, Nightspots and WindyCityQueercast.com

sponsored by



CLASSIFIEDS

ACCOUNTANTS

Accounting, Consulting and Training
for Small Developing Businesses



The A.C.T. Group

- ✓ Start-Up Business Assistance
- ✓ QuickBooks Setup and Consulting
- ✓ Non-Profit Audits/Consulting
- ✓ Business Tax Preparation

773 743-2196
FAX: 773 743-0292

6228 N. Broadway
Chicago, IL 60660
www.ACTGroup.to

LARRY LITTLE, C.P.A.
Licensed by the State of Illinois
larry@actgroup.to

ARTISTS

CALL FOR ARTISTS: SKOKIE ART GUILD'S 50TH ANNUAL ART FAIR. July 9 & 10, 2011. Fine art. Prizes and awards. Held on the Village Green, 5211 W. Oakton St., downtown Skokie, IL. Apply now. For applications or information: skokieart@aol.com or 847-677-8163. www.skokieartguild.org (6/30/11-18)

ASTROLOGY

UNDERSTAND YOURSELF, YOUR MOTIVATIONS, YOUR FEELINGS. Recognize your talents, strengths, successes. Overcome difficulties and confusion. Astrology can help pull it all together. Relationships. Career. Plan the future. Serious astrology for serious seekers. Private, personal consultations. www.astrologicaldetails.com Lin Ewing 847.609.0034 (1/7/12-52)

CLEANING SERVICES

CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES: We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. Can we help you? Bonded and insured. Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. www.ChestnutCleaning.com (4/27/11-52)

COUNSELING

Counseling and Clinical Hypnotherapy: Providing help to individuals and couples in our community since 1987. I specialize in relationship issues, spiritual issues, childhood trauma, and recurrent patterns that inhibit potential. Starla R. Sholl, LCSW, PC, 773.878.5809, www.starlasholl.com (9/1/11-26)

DECKS

Chicagoland
Deck Cleaning & Sealing

Over 5,000 Satisfied
Customers since 1995

- Powerwash • Premium Sealers
- Brush Applied • Residential, Condominiums & Commercial

"THE CONDOMINIUM EXPERTS"

- Large Crews • One Day Cleaning
- One Day Sealing • On Time



For a Free Estimate
Call Today

(773) 348-4516

www.deck-sealing.com

A- Rated Award Winning Company

FACELIFT MASSAGE

BELLANINA FACELIFT MASSAGE. Creating Beauty with Healing Hands. Marilyn Fumagalli, CMT, Bellanina Specialist. Located in Andersonville's historic Calo Theater Building. Mention this listing for \$5 off your first appointment. (773) 965-0972 (9/21/11-26-KS)

HOME IMPROVEMENT

BATHROOM REMODELING, HOME REPAIRS, PAINTING & MORE. Licensed-Bonded-Insured. One year warranty. Price by the job - not the hour. FREE estimates! Check us out on Angie's List. Andy OnCall, 773-244-9961. www.getandy.com (8/3/11-26)

Remodeling Expert available for all your home improvement needs. Please call Jim Heaney at 312-282-0305 or email remexperts@mac.com. (5/4/11-13)

FLOOR & WINDOW COVERINGS FOR ALL BUDGETS. Carpet, Tile, Hardwood, Bamboo, Laminate, Vinyl, and Window Coverings. Specializing in Helping with Material Selections for your Budget. Professionally Installed. Nationwide Floor & Window Coverings, We Bring the Show-room to You! Call or email for a free consultation and estimate. 773-935-8700, email cjones@nfwchicago.com www.nfwchicago.com (8/3/11-13)

INTERPRETER

FOR YOUR AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE/ENGLISH INTERPRETING NEEDS: To consult with you or your company with your ADA needs. Diana Thorpe CI/CT/NIC Master, Nationally Certified Interpreter, 773-401-1339, or e-mail thorpe2001@aol.com [P-TB]

MOVERS

WE ARE AN EXPERT, FULL-SERVICE MOVING COMPANY with over a decade of excellence serving our community. We pride ourselves in offering top-quality, efficient, low-cost, damage-free moves. Small to large trucks, fully equipped with modern tools, supplies of the trade. Rates for guaranteed professional staff: 2-man crew \$65/hr.; 3-man crew \$85/hr.; 4-man crew \$105/hr. (plus low, one-time travel charge.) Call 773-777-1110 or www.chicagocrescentmovers.com. (3/23/11-26)

OUTDOORS

Camp on the Sand Bars
of the WI River

10% off for WCT Readers
866.41.CANOE
www.86641canoe.com

SPIRITUALITY

Congregation
Or Chadash



Chicago's LGBT
Synagogue

Join us for Shabbat Services
Every Friday at 8:00 PM

Located at 5959 N. Sheridan
(in Emanuel Congregation)

For details
call (773) 271-2148

office@OrChadash.org

www.OrChadash.org

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE - HOMES

WWW.GAYREALESTATE.COM Free Instant Access to Chicago's Top Gay REALTORS® on-line at www.GayRealEstate.com or Toll Free 1.888.420.MOVE (6683) (4/25/12-52)

FOR SALE - OUT OF TOWN

SAUGATUCK COMPOUND most private property on "the hill." 3 cottages, campfire in the middle, steps to town, steps to rental boat slips, seasonal Lake Kalamazoo views, 2+ lots. Enjoy the compound with friends & family, or rent out the cottages! With 2 lots, could also tear down and build a home or two. judymagee@aol.com, 773-481-9928 (5/18/11-4)

COUNTRY LIVING! Completely remodeled farmhouse on 3.6 acres in Forreston IL. Less than 2 hours from Chicago. This is the getaway you've been looking for! Doug ReMax of Rock Valley (815) 222-5806. (5/18/11-2)

Gull Lake Drive, Richland, MI



Stylish contemporary 2 Bdm home
w/open, great room concept.

- 2.3 private acres
- Deeded lakefront access w/ dock
- High vaulted ceilings
- Fireplaces in LR & Master Bdm
- Full decks for outdoor living
- Huge, fully equipped gym
- Green built

A perfect home or a great getaway
in beautiful SW Michigan.

David Docsa / 269-207-3725
For sale by individual owner
www.postlets.com/res/5418965

FOR RENT - OFFICE/STUDIO/RETAIL SPACE

CLARK DEVON STORE RENT 6237 N CLARK EDGEWATER RENT SPECIAL, up to \$5000 commission paid to PROCURING CAUSE. New completely remodeled space available, 12' high deco tin ceilings exposed brick walls, 1/2 block north of the Raven Theater. Drive by and call Gus 847-267-1422 (6/1/11-4)

1024 W. ARMITAGE - \$549,000



Stunning and enormous 2 BR + office,
2 bath home in great Lincoln Park location.
19 windows allow for tons of natural light
throughout. Designer decorated to perfection,
this home showcases sophisticated charm at
every turn. Must see!

Jameson | Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

TIM SALM, Vice President of Sales
312.929.1564 (OFFICE) - 312.545.6753 (CELL)
TIM@TIMSALM.COM

If your property is currently listed for sale with a broker/agent, this is not intended as a solicitation of that listing. Sotheby's International Realty and the Sotheby's International Realty logo are registered service marks used with permission. Each Office is Independently Owned And Operated. ®

Prudential RUBLOFF

Chad Duda

RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE
773.398.4097
chadduda@gmail.com

An independently owned and operated member of Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

FOR RENT - TWO BEDROOMS

NORTH PARK COMFY APT! Sunny, newly painted and clean 1000+ sq ft 2 Bdrm; second flr of 2-FLAT in quiet area; HDWD Floors throughout; eat-in Kitchen and separate DR; large LR with built-ins, working WBFP; sunporch, free laundry, good closets, easy parking, fenced yard; pet friendly (w/fee), no smoking. Near NEIU. Available May 1. \$975/mo + security. References/credit check. To view call 773-573-9252 between 10 am-6 pm. (5/18/11-4)

FOR RENT - THREE+ BEDROOMS

FANTABULOUS NEWLY DECORATED 3BD/1BA APT WEST ROGERS PARK, Peterson & N. Western Ave Area. Nostalgic with Modern Flare 1400' 2nd flr Newly Decorated & Recently Rehabbed incl; Paint, Carpet, Fixtures, Eat-in Kitchen, Built In's, Euro Tile & Ceiling-Floor Linen Cabinet Mahogany Woodwork, Faux Fireplace, Stained Glass Window! Plethora of Amenities! Heat INCLUDED \$1,300 mo. Serious Inquiries only Call: Nicole Adams (773) 577-3246 (5/4/11-3)

BEAUTIFUL, BRIGHT AND SPACIOUS 3 Bedroom 2nd floor apt. in desirable FOREST GLEN/SAUGANASH area. Large kitchen, LR, and DR. C/A and great yard. Across from Metra and a walk from blue line. Blocks from 90/94 and easy access to 294. NON SMOKING. Available immediately. Call 773-617-2025 \$1,500 per month all utilities included. (5/18/11-4)

Celebrations

Share your special moments with the community in Windy City Times' new announcement section!

Steppenwolf brings the glam

Chicago staple Steppenwolf Theatre Company threw its annual gala May 7, providing a gourmet dinner and entertainment, the latter courtesy of Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band. Last year the group raised more than \$1 million; this year the event was well on its way thanks to live-auction donations from their star studied ensemble. Attendees bid for a chance to have lunch with The Good Wife's Josh Charles or a walk behind the scenes of Raising Hope with star Martha Plimpton. Six hundred attendees of the community, including Mayor-elect Rahm Emanuel, were on hand to support the special evening that stretched late into the night.

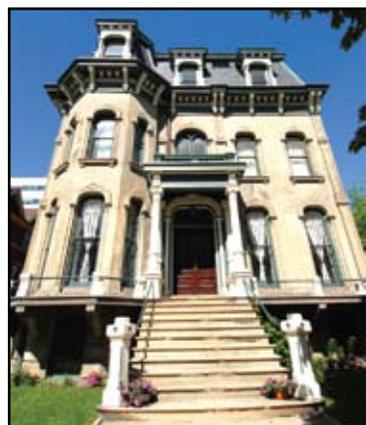
Current production The Hot L Baltimore and upcoming production Middletown promise to keep audiences on the edge of their seats for many years to come. Catch all of the drama at <http://www.steppenwolf.org>. Text and photos by Jerry Nunn



Celebrate your Civil Union



Rev. Barbara Zeman
 Roman Catholic priest
 Leader - Dignity Chicago
 Create your joyful ~ spiritual ceremony
 Contact: elke@rcn.com
www.wisdomandwordworks.com



RENT THE HISTORIC KEITH HOUSE

for your
-CIVIL UNION
-WEDDING
-OR OTHER EVENTS

For rates and availability contact:
Marcy Baim
312-907-7909
events@prairieavenuegallery.com
www.prairieavenuegallery.com

Capacity:
25-150 people



FUN and FABULOUS
Jewelry in a broad range of styles and prices



Jan Dee
 custom jewelry

1425 W. Diversey Parkway
 Wed 10-5, Thu-Fri 12-7, Sat 10-5
 773-871-2222
jandee.com
 GIA Certified in Diamonds, Colored Stones and Pearls

DaveOuanoPhotography.com
 Events • Fashion • Fitness



ModelMayhem.com/DaveOuano
 Facebook: Dave Ouano Photography
daveouano@me.com

Got something to celebrate? Send us information on your civil union, anniversary, adoption, marriage or any other joyous moment in life to appear in our new section,

Celebrations

Please send an email to andrew@windycitymediagroup.com and let Windy City Times join in your celebration.

calendar

Brought to you by the combined efforts of

WINDY CITY
TIMES

nightspots

CHICAGO
PRIDE.COM

Wed., May 11

Hope & Healing Support Group: LGBT Loss The death of a life partner, while always traumatic, can be particularly stressful for people who may lack societal or familial support because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Our LGBT loss group helps grieving individuals identify ways to cope with secrecy, shame or guilt—symptoms of grief that often are expressed in the LGBT community. 6:30 p.m., 847-556-1777, Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark, <http://http://www.carecenter.org/news-events/events-calendar/view/197/date/2011-06-22>

Equality Illinois Spring Wine Tasting \$20 gets access to tastings of over 120 different wines. You also have the chance to purchase those wines at a great discount; with a percentage going to the important work of Equality Illinois; 6 p.m., Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted, <http://www.equalityillinois.org>

Queering the Faith Townhall Discussion: From Dialogue to Action Bringing together the strands of the Queering the Faith series with an LGBT panel on how to build interfaith dialogue into national action, featuring speakers from diverse religious and institutional perspectives. 7 p.m., Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, 1300 S. Lake Shore, <http://www.lgbtchange.org>

Sheryl Crow Tix \$46 - \$96 on sale Friday, Feb. 25 at Genesee Theatre Box Office, Ticketmaster, charge-by-phone at 800-982-2787. 7:30 p.m., Genesee Theatre, 203 N. Genesee, Waukegan, <http://www.nitelite.com>



'FIRST' RATE

Saturday, May 14

Wanda Sykes (above) and Linda Eder will perform at Center on Halsted's Human First gala at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph.

PR photo

BAR NONE Thursday, May 12

Celebrate bartender Paté's birthday at Parlour, 6341 N. Clark.

Photo of Paté with her dog, Elvis, courtesy of Paté



Thursday, May 12

Pate's Birthday Bang! Please join Parlour in celebrating the birthday of legendary Chicago bartender Pate! In honor of Pate, you can make a donation to ASPCA. 6 p.m., Parlour on Clark, 6341 N. Clark

Bruiser: Tales of a Traumatized Tomboy Kelsie Huff brings to the Chicago stage the true story of how a misplaced tomboy blossoms into an even more awkward adult. 8 p.m., 773-598-4549, Gorilla Tango Theatre 1919 N. Milwaukee, <http://www.gorillatango.com/>

Friday, May 13

Gay Liberation Network on Chicago Access Network TV Gay Liberation Network live call-in show on CAN TV, 6:30-6:55 PM on Cable Channel 21 in Chicago. <http://www.gayliberation.net>

Impromptwo - Club for Gay Swingers New, private club for committed, non-monogamous gay couples. Meet like-minded couples in a relaxed, private setting. Pool

table, videos, dance floor & private play rooms. 2nd Friday of every month. RSVP required. BYOB; 8 p.m., 847-417-7076, Impromptwo, 1640 W. Hubbard, <http://www.impromptwo-chicago.com>

Gladys Knight Gladys has won many accolades, including being inducted into the Rock N' Roll Hall of fame in 1996, along with The Pips. Gladys, will be singing all these hits and more at The Venue. 8 p.m., The Venue at Horseshoe Casino, 777 Casino Center, <http://www.thevenue-chicago.com>

Scooty & JoJo Show, ALIEN QUEEN: The Concert Combines the legendary music of Queen with an outrageous parody of the "Alien" films to create a top-notch Queen tribute band made up of H.R. Giger-inspired aliens, cross-gendered humans, and some of Chicago's best singers and rock musicians. Tickets go on sale April 9th at \$16 advance-sale general admission, \$20 day-of general admission, and \$30 VIP seating. Doors at 8 p.m., 9 p.m., Metro, 3730 N. Clark, <http://www.scootyjojo.com>

Saturday, May 14

Center on Halsted Human First Gala Center on Halsted hosts Human First, an annual gala performance supporting Center on Halsted. Comedienne Wanda Sykes and singer Linda Eder will perform at the event, held at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance in Millennium Park. 7:30 p.m., 773-661-0794, Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph, <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Scott Free presents: ALT Q Featuring an evening of music from national and local LGBT artists, the event's mission is to raise visibility and awareness of out performers among the general public and the LGBT community; meet-the-artists reception will follow the event and proceeds from ALT Q will be given to St. Leonard's High School of Chicago, a free, community-based alternative high school for formerly incarcerated men and women. <http://www.slministries.org/mbc-education/>; 7 p.m., Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln, <http://www.altfestival.com>

SAGE Milwaukee's 7th Annual Spring Fling Service and Advocacy for GLBT Elder (SAGE)/Milwaukee's popular 7th annual Spring Fling. 5 p.m., 414-224-0517, MONA'S, 1407 S. 1st, Milwaukee, <http://sagemilwaukee.org/>

Dyke Delicious Screening Series: May Shorts Shorts range from the hilarious to the heartfelt, many of the filmmakers in person, social at 7 p.m., screening at 8 p.m., 7 p.m., Chicago Filmmakers, 5243 N. Clark, <http://www.chicagofilmmakers.org>

Miss Stonewall Inn 2011-12 Join us for the first-ever Miss Stonewall Inn pageant. Categories include presentation, evening gown, talent and Q&A. Prizes include \$500, mandatory bookings at the club and a spot in Stonewall's float in the Pride Parade. 10 p.m., Stonewall Inn, 8143 W. 47th St., Lyons, <http://www.stonewallchicago.com>

Sunday, May 15

Windy City Gay Idol Now in its ninth year, Idol searches for the best amateur LGBT singers in the Chicago area. \$10 sign-up fee for singers, and a \$5 fee for audience members at all preliminary event, 7 p.m. sign up, 8 p.m. start. T's Restaurant and Bar, 5025 N. Clark

American Cancer Society's 40th Annual Walk & Roll Walk & Roll participants raise funds prior to the event, often to commemorate friends and family who have lost their lives to cancer or honor those who currently struggle with the disease, and then take part in a 5-mile walk, 10-mile in-line skate or 15-mile bike ride. 8:30 a.m., 312-279-7261, Grant Park, <http://www.walkroll.org>

Monday, May 16

United House: A Night of Unity in House Music Join Hydrate Nightclub, Chicago-Pride.com, and host Cyon Flare for United House: A Night of Unity in House Music, featuring New Resident House DJ Semaj; 10 p.m., Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://www.hydratechicago.com>

Tuesday, May 17

Suicide Karaoke Take your chance at a vicious round of suicide karaoke, where you don't know what song you're singing until it's too late. A fundraiser for AIDS Foundation of Chicago. \$1 Jell-O shots, \$3 well cocktails raffle prizes. 10 p.m., Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark, <http://www.jackhammer-chicago.com>

Wed., May 18

Equality Illinois Civil Union Community Forum Join Equality Illinois for their Civil Union Community Forum. Contact EQIL at info@eqil.org or 773-477-7173 for more information; 6 p.m., United Church of Christ, Waukegan, <http://www.eqil.org>

Hope & Healing Support Group: LGBT Loss 6:30 p.m., 847-556-1777, Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark, <http://http://www.carecenter.org/news-events/events-calendar/view/197/date/2011-06-22>

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater "Revelations" 50th anniversary of the Company's signature masterpiece by Alvin Ailey, celebrated with six Chicago premieres, a short film by Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Judy Kinsberg will introduce all performances. Tickets \$30 by calling phone or online. 7:30 p.m., -800-982-2787, Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress, <http://auditoriumtheatre.org/wb/>

Thursday, May 19

Aretha Franklin Tickets \$47.50-\$125.; 8 p.m., Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State, <http://www.thechicagotheatre.com>

BINGO with the "Golden Girls" Join the fun for Chicago's "GOLDEN GIRLS BINGO" with Miss Fozzie and Paula Sinclair; 8:30 p.m., F. O'Mahony's European Tavern 3701 N. Broadway

Binary Binary: A Bisexual night for all. Whether you are single or coupled, bi, gay, straight or queer, out and proud or quietly supportive, looking for friends or out on the prowl or simply looking for a fun night out - Binary is for YOU! 9 p.m., Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted, <http://stereokillerproductions.webs.com>

Service Providers Council's Transgender Conference TransActions's theme is increasing Access to; 9 p.m., 312-334-0963, University Center, 525 S. State



GOOD KNIGHT Friday, May 13

Gladys Knight will perform at The Venue at Horseshoe Casino.

Promo photo

Friday, May 20

Engendering Change: First Annual Chicago Graduate Gender Conference Two days, open to graduate students in any field related to the study of gender/genders and will coincide with a performance art event that includes Holly Hughes, Rhodessa Jones, and Lenelle Moisse. Christine Wood, c-wood@northwestern.edu. 12 p.m., Northwestern University, <http://www.northwestern.edu>

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Presents: DIVAS! The women we love! The icons we adore! Barbra, Aretha, Madonna, Liza. The songs that make us weep, the hits that make us move. I Will Survive, Fever, Lady Marmalade, Ain't No Mountain High Enough. Divas! is a fabulous ode to over forty female superstars and the music they made famous. Continues May 21. 8 p.m., 773-296-0541, Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport, <http://www.cgmc.org>

Saturday, May 21

Glee's Morrison headlines Goodman Theatre's Gala Matthew Morrison takes a break from his Glee television classroom to headline Goodman Theatre's "One Enchanted Decade" black-tie gala event, cocktail reception and performance in the 856-seat Albert Theatre. Tables, \$25,000, \$15,000 and \$10,000; individual tickets start at \$500. 8 p.m., 312-443-3811 ext. 586, Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn, <http://www.goodmantheatre.org>

Out in Chicago exhibit The Out in Chicago exhibit is believed to be the first major LGBT history project undertaken by a mainstream museum in U.S. history. 12-4 p.m., 312-642-4600, Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark, <http://www.chicago-history.org>

Sunday, May 22

Springfield's first annual Gay Pride Festival on Harvey Milk Day Beings with a Pooch Parade on Capital Avenue between 5th and 6th streets and will continue until 6 p.m. with entertainment, dancing, vendors, food and drink for all ages including a children's area. Scandals Nightclub will host the Pre-Pride Party Saturday night May 21st and Club Station House will host the After-Pride Party at 6 p.m. Sunday. 12 p.m., 217-528-5253, Capital Ave., Springfield, <http://www.phoenixcenter-springfield.org>

Thursday, May 26

International Mr. Leather IML begins tonight with a roast of Tyler McCormick at Leather Archives & Museum, 6418 N. Greenview. IML runs through May 30; see <http://www.iml.com/visitorsguide/schedule.php>

BILLY MASTERS

"Arthur Laurents told me the three actresses he had in mind for the role, and of the three, Streisand was the best choice... Singing 'Rose's Turn' is all about giving up control and discovering it every time. I think Streisand is very in control. She would be like, 'I'm going to fart, and everyone's going to hear it!'" —Patti LuPone gives her thoughts on the possibility of Babs filming a remake of Gypsy, something that will likely not happen due to the death of Arthur Laurents.

Lately I've been in some dental distress. Now, I have a high threshold for pain—just ask anyone who's dated me. But if there's anything worse than being in pain at home, it's being in pain away from home. I had no idea what to do or who to go to. While some fans had some extremely helpful advice, I faced the very real possibility of blindly picking a dentist off the Internet. That's when my colleague Lynn Samuels (on Sirius Stars 107) recommended her own dentist who had relocated to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Within a couple of days, I was in the trusty hands of an adorable Nova Southeastern University Dental resident who took care of my gaping hole. Come to think of it, it wouldn't be the first time I've said that about somebody I found online!

I was literally in a waiting room when I heard the bizarre story about a woman arrested in neighboring Pompano Beach. Ann Marie Hernandez was taken into custody after police learned that she was concealing a fraudulent credit card and driver's license in her vagina. Yes, IN her vagina!!! You'd think this was an isolated incident, but some cursory research revealed that women use their vaginas to carry a variety of things. Why just last month, Gloria Esther Perez of Fort Myers, Fla., ended up in the big house after police discovered a bottle of prescription medication and a knife up there! Well, I suppose it's easier than carrying a purse. It also means that the dentist who tended to my cavity had absolutely nothing to complain about!

However, it's not just ladies with gifted crotches. Sexy actor Alex Pettyfer (from that movie I Am Number Four, which nobody saw) admits that he got a tattoo above his penis that says "Thank you." Why? "In case I forget to say it." He's a giver. Strike that—a receiver! Elsewhere in the VMAN magazine interview, Alex talks about life in Hollywood: "L.A. is growing on me a little bit, but it's still a shit hole. Geographically it's fantastic: In a half hour, you can be on the beach in one direction, go snowboarding in another, or go out into the desert. But socially it's disgusting. I wish they'd run all the cunts out." And this is how my columns develop a theme...

It's been oft reported that Pettyfer's family was best friends with the family of Channing Tatum—a detail Alex admits is completely untrue. However, it's still the perfect segue into our next story. Before becoming a film star, Tatum was a lithe male model who used to take off his clothes at the drop of a hat—although in the full-frontal shot we have on BillyMasters.com, he leaves his hat on. At the same time, he was also working as a male stripper (something we revealed in 2009 along with a video). And where did he strip? In Florida. Yet another crotchal connection to the Sunshine State. Now Chan is parlaying his past into a film. He's teamed up with Steven Soderbergh (who continually promises he's retiring) to produce and act in Magic Mike. Since his weight has fluctuated considerably upon entering his 30s (alas, that's life), Tatum will not be playing the young hunky stripper. Instead, he'll be the older stripper who mentors the young hunky dancer. Either way, someone's taking something off. "This was a wild and pivotal time in my life and I couldn't be more thrilled to go down the rabbit hole with

Steven," Tatum said. Soderbergh called Channing's pitch "one of the best ideas I'd ever heard for a movie." So, move over Erin Brockovich, Traffic and Sex, Lies, and Videotape. Here comes Magic Mike!

Staying in shape in your 30s doesn't seem to be a problem for Lane Garrison, formerly of Prison Break and, more recently, an actual prison! Seeing recent photos of the soon to be 31-year-old strolling shirtless on the beach, I can understand why the warden placed him in protective custody "for his own safety." I suspect someone might have wanted to play "hide the credit card" with him! While you're looking at these photos on BillyMasters.com, remember—don't drink and drive. And thus ends the public service portion of this column.

Didya know that Jacob Lusk, the latest cast-off from American Idol, has some experience in prison? Back in 2009, Jacob was cited for riding the L.A. subway without a ticket. It's a minor offense, but he skipped his court date, which led to



Alex Pettyfer (above) wants his lovers to know how grateful he is.

an arrest warrant—'cause L.A. don't play! About a year later, he's pulled over for going through a stop sign, the officer sees the outstanding arrest warrant, and suddenly Lusk is playing "What's in your wallet?" in the hoosegow! He only had to serve three days in jail, which he says he endured by singing to his fellow inmates. I guess that was one way to keep his mouth occupied. But, I have a hunch it wasn't the only way.

Didya know that a recent study shows that ingesting semen can act as an antidepressant? Keep that in mind next time you're feeling a little down.

Could it be that a certain soap siren has a new occupation? Full-time beard—or imminent Mrs. Beard. Of course, she's got loads of experience, given some of her onscreen partners (including two whom were vying for her affection at the same time). And certainly her current paramour fits that niche nicely. But our damsel in distress says this is the real thing—because she's gotten a sign. Hey, who am I to doubt her. Maybe this really is her soul mate. Or maybe it just means that she and Ellen have the same taste in music.

When a soap star is praying her fiancé is nothing like his most recent character, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Now that I'm out of pain, I can concentrate on the important things—like keeping you up to date of the latest gossip on www.BillyMasters.com. And I'm always happy to hear from the fans. Feel free to send me a note at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I check my dentist for tattoos! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON SHOW TUNES SPARKLE!

SUNDAY IN THE PARK

(in this case...courtyard)

WITH...

A SIDETRACK FAVORITE,
MOET & CHANDON
ICE IMPERIAL

ON THE ROCKS
WITH A TWIST
OF ORANGE.



facebook.com/SidetrackBar



twitter.com/SidetrackBar



3349 N. Halsted
SidetrackChicago.com

Line dancing lessons
Roping class
Live entertainment in the Cabaret
"Can't Keep a Good Ho Down!"

May 20 - 23

Ride a Cowboy, Save a Horse Weekend

Continental Breakfast
Special Weekend Rates
2 night min (3rd night free)
Includes admission to the club
Lots more - check out details online

May 27 - 30

Memorial Weekend

DJ Roland Belmares
DJ Brett Locascio
DJ Mark Vallese

Live Cabaret Entertainment:
Amy & Freddy
Kelly & Rick
Dunes Divas

Men of Manwatch
Sunday & Monday Tea Dances

Expanded pool bar & deck!
Renovated pool!

30 YEARS

"Come join the Party!
It's a Celebration!" -Madonna

www.dunesresort.com 269.857.1401
SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN



Frank Kisner: Basketball player finds groove in Chicago

BY ROSS FORMAN

Frank Kisner, a lifelong basketball player, discovered Team Long Beach in 1990—the team run by Mark Chambers, who founded the National Gay Basketball Association (NGBA).

Kisner played for the Long Beach Rebels for eight years moving to Chicago, including traveling to tournaments and also multiple Gay Games. He won a silver medal in 1990 and a gold in 1994. And in the first two years of the Chicago Hoops Classic (now known as the Coady Roundball Classic), Kisner's Long Beach team won the championship.

In 1998, he moved to Chicago and naturally started playing in the local gay league. Since arriving in Chicago, he's run or assisted with the league numerous years—"more than I can remember," he joked. Kisner often has been responsible for creating the schedule for the basketball league. Plus, he's coached a few teams.

"[Coaching] was my greatest satisfaction and I really did enjoy the guys, even when I became known as the crazy coach," Kisner said, laughing.

Kisner played for the Roadhouse 66 Old School team during the recently-completed 2011 season, with many of his close friends on the team and some new, younger players, too.

"The young [players], we made them run the fast break while we seniors picked our spots of running," he joked. "We started out slow this year, but, by mid way in the season, we got our groove and went on to win our last five games."

"I might be one of the taller guys on the team, but I usually played small forward or shooting guard. There's never been a shot that I didn't like [to take]. What can I say, I love the game of basketball and even though I might be getting up there in age, I still feel I have a few good years left in this body. I really enjoy playing with the new kids and welcoming them to the league. It helps keeps me young. As long as I can teach them a few things every now then, like [the fact that] this old man can still shoot the 3-pointer, it's all good. The thing that is great about this league is, the friendships that



Frank Kisner. Photo by Ross Forman

you make which can last a lifetime. You can play hard against one another during the game, then, when the game is over, you leave it on the court and you head out for a burger and beer."

Kisner's dedication to the local gay basketball league was honored this spring, when he was awarded the Greg Walsh Award.

"I was very shocked that I was given the award," Kisner said. "I would like to thank the entire board for the award. I volunteer for the league because I enjoy basketball and the guys who play and run the league. I really don't know how to put it into words, but, to be recognized for the things that you enjoy doing, is a great honor. I knew Greg Walsh and how much he gave to the league, [particularly] growing the lower division to where it is now, so this is just amazing. I will honor and cherish this award in his name."

Kisner, who lives in Andersonville and has been partnered for almost 15 years to Chris Kinnear, is the assistant director consumer education for the Illinois Department of Insurance.

"It's so hard to say what it has meant to me playing in different gay sports over the last 25 years," Kisner said. "The only word I can describe it as would be: amazing. To have discovered the different leagues back in the 1980s, before the Internet, has opened my eyes to a new world."

I always enjoyed playing sports in high school and playing with my fraternity in college. You wonder once you're done with school if you will have the chance to keep reliving the fun you had playing team sports. Then I discovered the different gay leagues and everything changed. I've been able to travel to different cities around the world, and made new friends everywhere; it's been amazing/awesome. It's great traveling with a bunch of friends, going out and playing the games you love, and then enjoying new cities and what they have to offer. I've met some dear friends over the years [through sports], and I would never have met them if I wasn't playing in these gay leagues and on these travel teams."

Kisner has been playing basketball and softball here for the past 13 years. He also played volleyball for eight years. "My body can only

take so much now, so I can only play one sport at a time during a season," he said.

Kisner serves as the umpire-in-chief for the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association softball league (open division).

—**Favorite sport to watch:** College football or college basketball. "I guess it's the excitement of the game and knowing that these kids are playing for their school. College sports is a different atmosphere compared to pro sports. I don't know how to express the excitement that is seen on the college campus or in the stands when there is a big game for that school."

—**Favorite pro sports team:** Los Angeles Lakers.

—**Favorite pro athletes:** Magic Johnson all time and Mark Buehrle from the Chicago White Sox (active).

'Bowling with the Stars' May 21

"Bowling With the Stars"—a night when local dignitaries fill the lanes with LGBTQ youth they are paired with from around Chicago—will take place Saturday, May 21, 6:30-8 p.m. at Diversey River Bowl, 2211 W. Diversey.

Proceeds will go towards the 3rd Annual Renae Ogletree LGBTQA Scholarship Fund. The day includes food, prizes, awards, giveaways, photo opportunities and bowling!

So far, the local stars include state Rep. Greg Harris, AIDS Foundation of Chicago's Keith Green, Anna Deshaw on E3 Radio, Lawrence Hall's Kevin Pleasant, Howard Brown Health Center's Lois Bates, Nicole Scarver of Windy City Black Pride, Greg Norels of Bayard Rustin Access Center, Otis Richardson of Lavenderpop Cards and Doug Brandt of Pie Hole Pizza Joint.

The event is open to the public. Spectators are encouraged. There is a suggested donation of \$10.

Contact Atukwe Moore at 773-677-1170 to make a general donation or to bowl.

Chicago Outfit season opener May 14

The Chicago Outfit Roller Derby will roll into the Windy City Fieldhouse, 2367 W. Logan, on Saturday, May 14, to kick off its 2011 home season with a double header.

The Syndicate, The Chicago Outfit's A-Team, is scheduled to play The Tri-City Rollergirls from Ontario, while the Shade Brigade, B-Team, will play the Southern Illinois Roller Girls. Doors at 6 p.m., and the bout will commence at 7 p.m.

Following the bout, The Chicago Outfit will host an afterparty at Cobra Lounge, 235 N. Ashland.

See <http://www.chicagoutfitrollerderby.com>.

Force overcomes Tribe



The Jessica Springer Show was freakishly good May 7, as the Chicago Force running back almost single handedly carried the host team to a 34-26 win over the Kansas City Tribe.

Springer rushed 50 times for an amazing 312 yards and three touchdowns, highlighted by a 45-yard gallop for the first points of the game. The Force is now 4-0, while the Tribe falls to 4-1—and the 34 points scored by Chicago were the first points Kansas City has allowed all season.

"This was a very good game, good win," said Springer, named the Spin Nightclub Game MVP. "This definitely was a good game for me personally, but not my best ever. I still can improve, as can the whole team."

The Force built a 13-0 lead in the first quarter after a Sami Grisafe touchdown pass to Kim Marks. Springer rushed home from 5 yards out in the second quarter as the Force led 19-14 at halftime.

Grisafe scored on a 1-yard quarterback keeper with seven seconds remaining in the third quarter as the Force led 27-14 heading into the final period.

Springer scored the team's final touchdown, a 6-yard run.

"I just ran hard throughout," the game, said Springer who, for the first time in her career, took snaps as the quarterback—so she could immediately rush the ball.

"We were able to hold our composure throughout the game, which was good."

The Force wraps up the regular-season with three road games—at the St. Louis Slam, at the West Michigan Mayhem and at the Indianapolis Crash. Regional playoffs start in late June and the league championship is slated for July 30. Photo of Force alumni and text by Ross Forman

MICHAEL ELDER

ACE CERTIFIED FITNESS PROFESSIONAL

MUSCULAR STRENGTH & ENDURANCE
SIZE & DEFINITION
WEIGHT MANAGEMENT
AEROBIC ENDURANCE
FLEXIBILITY TRAINING
NUTRITIONAL GUIDANCE
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

(773) 516-4787

WWW.MICHAELELDER.COM



9th Annual
WINDY CITY GAY IDOL

It's all about Shawn and Chad, the two new finalists who advanced May 9 at Parlour, 6349 N. Clark. Check them out at the semi-finals at Sidetrack on Sat., June 4.

Photos by Dave Ouano. See more photos at facebook.com/windycitygayidol.

Check out this week's Nightspots for photos of Windy City Gay Idol at Jackhammer.

Miller is the presenting sponsor of Windy City Gay Idol.



CONNEXIONS
MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS



Susan O'Dell, PhD
Down to earth, change oriented therapy

I see individuals, couples, children & families for crisis and ongoing work.

I also offer wellness support for persons living with chronic illness, including cancer and HIV-AIDS, their partners and families.



773.262.7010

1422 W. THOME AVENUE, CHICAGO IL 60660

The Law Offices of Alexander Weaver
312-588-5005
email: violaw@rcn.com
A Full Service Law Firm for the Community since 1988

410 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 628, Chicago

State Farm®
Providing Insurance and Financial Services
Home Office, Bloomington, Illinois 61710



Linda Kuczka, Agent

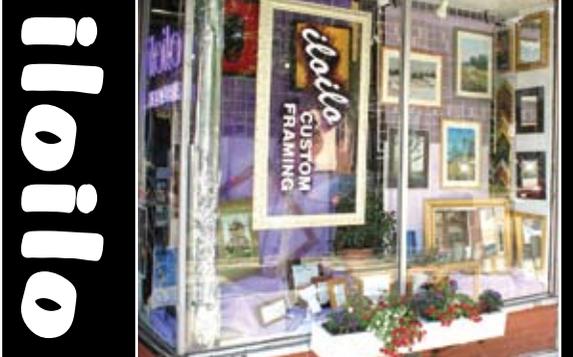
954 W Webster
Chicago, IL 60614
Bus: 773-975-9111
Fax: 773-975-1192
linda@lindakuczka.com



P045151 4/04

Mulryan & York
Attorneys At Law

4001 N. Wolcott
Chicago, IL 60613
(773) 248-8887



ilolo CUSTOM FRAMING

Framing Chicago's art since 1991
All work done on premise.

1478 W. Berwyn - 773.784.3962

Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

Tel: 312.985.5938 | Fax: 312.985.5985
rkoenig@clarkhill.com | clarkhill.com



CLARK HILL

ARIZONA ILLINOIS MICHIGAN WASHINGTON DC



You deserve an experienced lawyer who understands the needs of our community

Employment | Personal Injury | Business Disability | Wills & Trusts | Condo Associations



Betty Tsamis
Tsamis Law Firm, P.C.
(866)703-5509
BTsamis@TsamisLaw.com
www.TsamisLaw.com



When experience counts...
In service to the community for over 30 years.

The Law Offices of Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss & Associates



- Bankruptcy
- Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate
- Litigation
- Powers of Attorney
- Civil Unions

19 S. LaSalle, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60603
312-263-8800, email RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM
We are a debt relief agency. We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the bankruptcy code.

BUD LIGHT Bleacher Series



FREE

every **MONDAY**
Collect all eight unique t-shirts



\$3 12oz. DRAFT BEER*

every **TUESDAY**
Bud Light or Budweiser for \$3
(21 years of age and older)



\$1 HOT DOGS

every **WEDNESDAY**
Vienna Beef Hot Dogs for just \$1



To purchase tickets to the Bud Light Bleachers, visit Cubs.com or visit the Wrigley Field ticket office.



*Also available at select concession stands in the seating bowl

